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# Field & Stream

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Founded in 1895

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Fleeting whitetail,  
photographed by  
Norm Nelson

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THE DECISION of Game Conservation International, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, 324 Milam Building, San Antonio, Texas 78205, to administer a legal defense fund to protect the U.S. hunting public against infringement of its civil rights will also be of direct benefit to wildlife.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, despite the double drawbacks of soaring prices and high unemployment, a record 16.4 million Americans spent \$143 million on state hunting licenses last year.

However, the stepped-up anti-hunting campaign on the part of such organizations as Friends of Animals, Fund For Animals, and Defenders of Wildlife (just a few of the organizations which have raised \$14 million in the last half a dozen years to stamp out hunting in America) is in danger of slowing down this rise in license purchases. Freed of such pressure and allowed to continue to contribute these millions to wildlife management, research, and propagation of wildlife, the hunter and fisherman in America could continue as the greatest supporter of our wildlife resources.

Anti-hunting groups have claimed that the country could do without hunters and hunting license revenue, and the special self-imposed taxes on sporting guns and ammunition. It is their contention that wildlife could be supported by appropriations from general funds.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The proposed budget of the Fish and Wildlife Service for fiscal year 1976 seems large at first glance—\$234 million. But remember that \$92.5 million of that comes directly from sportsmen in self-imposed excise taxes paid on sporting guns, ammunition, fishing tackle, and the sale of federal waterfowl stamps. In addition, another \$22 million is derived from other agencies to make up for fish and wildlife losses.

In other words only about half of the Fish and Wildlife Service's total budget—\$119 million—would come from general funds and be earmarked for F&WS projects. Out of that only \$69.9 million would be allocated to wildlife from the federal general fund in fiscal year 1976.

Now compare that with the whopping \$185 million the nation's hunters alone poured into wildlife conservation in 1973—\$124 million in state hunting licenses, another \$49 million in excise taxes on guns and ammunition, and \$12 million in duck stamp revenues.

Add to that the impact of federal excise tax monies that have enabled the states to manage or outright purchase more than 54 million acres of wildlife habitat. Paid for by hunters, this acreage also provides a home for a multitude of nongame species of wildlife.

Those are the facts. Use them when the anti-hunter talks about his or her concern for wildlife in America, and when the same anti-hunter advocates doing away with the hunter and his license fees. Then ask how much money the anti-hunter and the preservationist have paid to preserve our wildlife resources!

It is too bad that by just letting nature alone wildlife will not survive and propagate. It is a dream the uninformed have, and perhaps it is a worthwhile dream. But we cannot go back to times when man was not upon this earth. And since man has so drastically changed the balance of nature, it is up to us now to manage the wild creatures of the world. Game management is a science today and an expensive one. Only the revenue from the hunting and fishing public is sufficient to do that job.

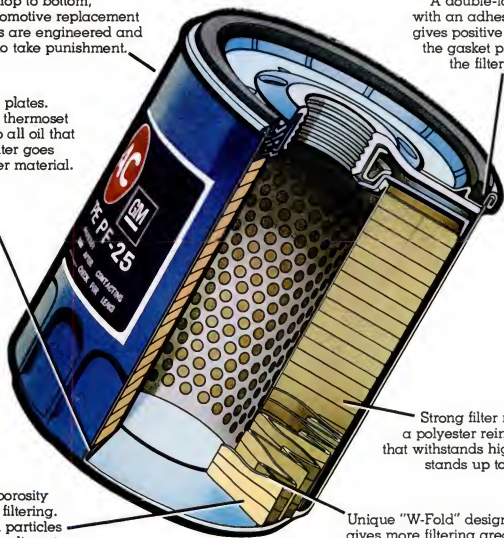
*Jack Samson*

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# Cheers & Jeers

## On the Spot

Congratulations! "Spotlighting Spotlighters" (by Joel Vance in July) has to be the most true-to-life article I have ever read.

Although the article didn't mention illegal killing in Utah, I'm sure that it goes on. Spotlighting in Utah is legal, but no firearm may be in the vehicle or in possession. And



that has to be the biggest joke ever. Find a spotlighter, and most likely you'll find a firearm.

I've hunted for eighteen years and never once killed a game animal illegally. And if I'm ever put in the position of being with someone who does, friend or not, I'll do my part to have the person arrested.

JAMES SCHIROS  
Salt Lake City, Utah

My father raised a family of five children in northern Wisconsin. Work was hard to come by and deer meat was a main substance. The families I knew who poached to live were not "bums, thieves, and criminals" as Mr. Vance categorizes all poachers, but parents trying to make the best of a hard land. There are many who poach for the same reason today, but they cannot be classed with those who poach for profit.

JOHN M. FITCH  
Loveland, Ohio

## No Laughing Matter

I have been following your exposure of the anti-hunting groups, and their finances, with a great admiration of a magazine and its people who are trying to inform the hunter that his days of hunting could be coming to an end.

These articles are equally important to the fishermen since they too are being attacked.

After just sending a contribution to the Legal Defense Fund, I am hoping that other hunters and fishermen will do likewise. If we don't defend our sport now and speak out against those who would end hunt-

issue and saw the stately picture of the German shorthair. That dog shows all the royal dignity and beauty that are traits of that breed.



Not even the much-heralded issue of one of the weekly news magazines depicting Cher at her best could equal the classic looks of this German shorthair.

ROY H. LINDEMAN  
Green Bay, Wis.

In "Tramp" in your July issue, Mr. Samson has captured that warm and rich partnership that could only exist between man and dog. Having gone through a similar experience of losing such a partner, I now recall the touch of a floppy ear and the wagging tail of a friend long gone.

Thanks for the memories.

LUIS G. IGLESIAS  
West New York, N.J.

Having just read "Tramp," and being a bird-dog owner myself, I felt I should write this:

As bad as I felt for the owner, I have one criticism—why the hell was the dog running loose? It makes no difference whether there were deer around or not, no animal that valuable should be allowed to run free—in a city or on a 1,000-acre farm. The end result can be exactly what happened to Tramp. And the owner should bear a good deal of blame for what happened.

I know this may sound hard-hearted, but maybe it will make someone else who thinks he's doing his dog a good turn think twice about letting him run.

ROD AZAR  
Dalton, Pa.

I read with great interest Bill Tarrant's "Retrieving, Part I: The Foundation." His explanation of the pro dog was sensitive and extremely well written.

The pride, joy, and companionship I receive from my two Labs while hunting and at the trials can be explained only to another devoted retriever owner.

IANN H. OSWALT  
Garden City, Kan.

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ing and fishing forever, we could realize too late that the "anti's" weren't just a laughing matter.

GARY WOOD  
Windom, Minn.

Congratulations on your July Editorial.

It seems, unfortunately, that the time has come that we hunters cannot be "Mr. Nice Guy" anymore. I believe it is time—and time is of the essence—that we sportsmen use the legal avenues open to us. Use them often and use them hard! We can no longer sit idly by and let these anti-hunting maniacs stab us in the back as they've done in the past.

VICTOR SATAS  
Cicero, Ill.

## Going to the Dogs

I felt a great deal of pleasure when I purchased your July 1975



# How to beat the odds on the long shots.

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One.

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**Ask a gunsmith.** He knows gun design inside and out. He can tell you our 700 has one of the strongest center fire bolt actions ever made. The cartridge head is surrounded by three rings of solid steel. And there are no extractor cut-aways to weaken this critical area. The bolt lugs are machined from steel every bit as strong as the steel around the cartridge head.

**Ask a dealer.** He probably sells hundreds of rifles a year. You might find out from him that the variety of the 700's caliber selection sets it apart from any other bolt action rifle—15 different calibers for every kind of hunting, every kind of game.

**Beyond accuracy.** We know a sportsman takes

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22-250 Rem.	X	X	X
222 Rem.	X	X	X
223 Rem.			X
25-06 Rem.	X	X	X
6mm Rem.	X	X	X
243 Win.	X	X	X
270 Win.	X	X <sup>1</sup>	
30-06	X	X <sup>1</sup>	
308 Win.		X	
7mm Rem. Mag.	X	X <sup>1</sup>	
264 Win. Mag.		X	
300 Win. Mag.		X	
375 H&H Mag.			X <sup>**</sup>
458 Win. Mag.			X <sup>**</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Left-hand model available

<sup>\*\*</sup> Safari grade

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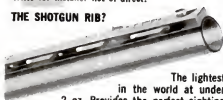
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# Sundown



BY RICHARD STARNES

**W**e'd loaded the A Model pickup in the first hour of daylight and now, with the sun just passing over the ridge pole of the big cow barn, we started down the road to Warehouse Junction and to the railroad that would carry me back north to school. We trailed a cloud of red dust behind the pickup and, I confess, some memories that still pull at my heart after nearly forty years. Uncle Wesley sat beside me, spruce as always in his fresh suntans and his white panama hat, his big hands holding the wheel loosely, and that wonderful secret smile of his never far from his face. His skin was a parchment of fine wrinkles, and with his magnificent raptorial nose he looked like some sort of benign cross between a hawk and an Indian chief. I guess I should have noticed that he had begun to look frail and shrunken, but I was just a kid, and I thought those wonderful summers on his farm would go on forever. He knew, I think, that this was the last ride we'd be taking to the depot, but I did not know it, which was a good thing because I am sure I would have found the thought unbearable.

"Well, Buck, we've had a good summer."

He was the only person who has ever called me Buck, and I remember taking pride in it.

"Yes, sir, Uncle Wes. A great summer."

He watched the cottonfields flash past the window of the A Model for a moment. "I reckon we must have caught a hundred fish, more or less."

"Easy a hundred."

He cleared his throat. "I want you to give those books hard fits for me. A chap can't hunt and fish all the time, you know."

I didn't know any such thing, but

I would never have contradicted anything Uncle Wesley said. "Yes, sir, I'm going to work hard. I'll bring my report card next summer to show you."

Now it is easy to imagine the shadow that must have crossed his face at the mention of next summer, but in honesty I can't say I remember any such thing. What I do remember is listening with respect and affection while he took a last opportunity to explain some things he had learned that were very important.

"I want you to remember one thing about catching fish, or shooting game, for that matter. I think the good Lord put creatures on earth for us to use and enjoy, but I'm plumb certain He didn't mean for us to waste them. Don't ever be the kind of no-account that lets good food go to waste because he's too shiftless to clean a fish or to hang a deer the right way."

I remembered the fish-cleaning lesson. "Two ticks with a sharp knife," I recited.

"A" course. Don't ever forget to keep your knife sharp. Anybody who carries a dull knife is just plain sorry, and that's all there is to it."

"Yes, sir." (Please turn the page)



## If it doesn't have bottom ejection, you don't own a Featherlight.<sup>®</sup>

If its 1 1/2 lb. receiver hasn't been machined out of a 7 1/2 lb. solid steel block, it's not an Ithaca Featherlight. If its wood isn't hand-fitted, hand-finished solid American walnut, it's not a Featherlight shotgun. And if it doesn't have a Roto-forged<sup>®</sup> barrel, hammered to length from 15" billets, forged like the best rifle barrels, then stress relieved and triple reamed, it's not a Featherlight either.

These are some of the reasons a hunter who paid \$90 in 1950 for a new Ithaca Model 37 Featherlight would find the same gun selling used 25 years later for \$100\*.

Our exclusive bottom ejection helps us keep this gun America's most reliable shotgun. Dirt, debris, rain and snow can't fall into this gun's action. Empty shells eject straight down instead of across your line of sight.

You can even be lefthanded and never see hulls eject from the gun. This keeps burned powder residue and gas blowback away from you, and it also keeps hot, pinwheeling empties from hitting anyone standing next to you.

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Shoulder it to see how its exclusive Raybar<sup>®</sup> sight lights your way to targets.

Heft it to feel how its light weight will let you travel farther, shoot quicker, finish the day fresher and come home with what you went hunting for.

Extra interchangeable barrels are available in most all lengths and chokes. Available in plain, vent rib, or Deerslayer models both 12 and 20 gauges.

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*Malcolm Dunn*

Malcolm Dunn, Owner and Manager  
Amwell Shooting Preserve, Amwell, N.J.



Malcolm Dunn has been an enthusiastic upland game hunter since he was eight years old. He now operates the Amwell Shooting Preserve in Amwell, N.J., founded by his father in 1949. This is a club that numbers among its members some of the nation's most distinguished sportsmen and sports writers. It is famous for its natural setting which provides a real challenge for the pheasant, quail and chukar partridge hunter. Of Winchester and Western low brass loads, Malcolm says: "All of the club members are experienced upland hunters and they know it pays to match the load to the game they are after. That's the big reason most of them use Winchester and Western Upland loads."

# Controlled power. Full patterns. Quality components. Many reloads. A few of the reasons experienced upland hunters choose Winchester or Western low brass Upland® loads.



Upland hunters don't always agree on the definition of their sport. To some, upland hunting is "pheasant hunting". To others it means "quail hunting". To many it is the pursuit of partridge, woodcock or grouse. To still others upland hunting is a fancy name for squirrel or rabbit hunting. And to many more, upland hunting means simply "dove hunting".

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Quality components throughout in a perfectly balanced load. That's the added advantage Winchester or Western Upland shot shells can give you in your particular kind of upland shooting this year. Available in shot sizes 4 to 9. See your Winchester or Western dealer for more reasons why low brass Upland shot shells are "worth it".

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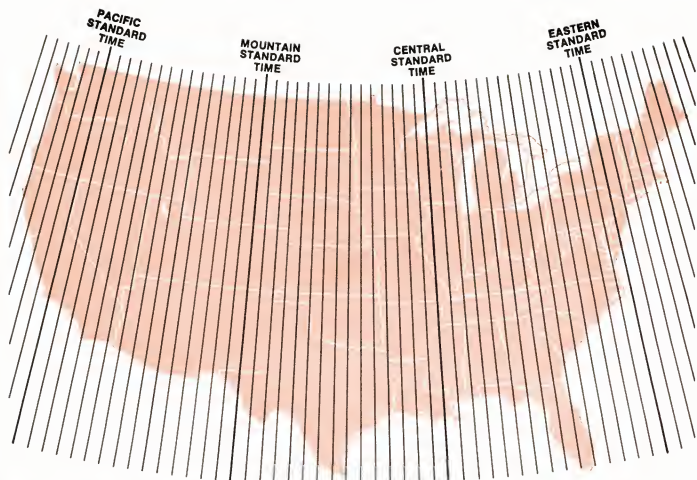
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308



## Solunar tables<sup>®</sup> for September and October

A forecast of the daily feeding times of fish and game for every day of the month

THESE SOLUNAR TABLES<sup>®</sup>, originally conceived by John Alden Knight, are designed to forecast the times of the day when fish and game are most likely to feed and be active. Based on the movements of the sun and moon in relation to the earth, they predict the time each day when the best sport can be expected, although because of variable weather and habitat conditions they do not guarantee you will catch fish or find game. The tables must be adjusted to the area where you are hunting or fishing. To do this, refer to the map at the top of the page. Locate the dark time zone line correct for your area—Eastern, Central, Mountain, or Pacific—and count the number of lines either left or right to the area you are in. Each line represents four minutes, so multiply the number of lines by four. If you originally counted to the left of the time zone line, add this number to all the times in the table. If you counted to the right, subtract the number from all times and you will have the correct time for your area. During Daylight Savings Time, also add one additional hour to all times. Major periods last two hours to three and a half hours. Minor periods last forty-five minutes to one hour and a half. A.M. means midnight to noon; P.M., noon to midnight.

### SEPTEMBER

AM			PM		AM			PM					
Date	Day	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Date	Day	Minor	Major				
1.	Mon.	.....	6:35	12:30	7:05	16.	Tues.	....	1:10	7:40	1:35	8:05	
2.	Tues.	....	12:45	7:30	1:20	7:55	17.	Wed.	....	1:50	8:20	2:20	8:40
3.	Wed.	....	1:40	8:20	2:10	8:55	18.	Thurs.	....	2:30	9:00	2:55	9:20
4.	Thurs.	....	2:30	9:10	3:10	9:40	19.	Fri.	.....	3:10	9:40	3:35	10:00
5.	Fri.	.....	3:40	10:05	3:55	10:30	20.	Sat.	.....	3:50	10:15	4:15	10:40
6.	Sat.	.....	4:15	11:05	4:45	11:30	21.	Sun.	.....	4:25	11:00	4:55	11:30
7.	Sun.	.....	5:15	.....	5:40	12:05	22.	Mon.	....	5:10	11:50	5:45	.....
8.	Mon.	.....	6:20	12:35	6:45	1:00	23.	Tues.	....	6:00	12:15	6:25	12:35
9.	Tues.	.....	7:20	1:30	7:45	2:05	24.	Wed.	....	6:50	1:45	7:15	1:25
10.	Wed.	.....	8:15	2:15	8:40	2:55	25.	Thurs.	....	7:40	1:55	8:05	2:20
11.	Thurs.	.....	9:20	3:30	9:35	4:00	26.	Fri.	.....	8:35	2:45	8:55	3:15
12.	Fri.	.....	10:10	4:35	10:45	5:05	27.	Sat.	.....	9:30	3:40	9:50	4:10
13.	Sat.	.....	11:20	5:25	11:35	5:50	28.	Sun.	.....	10:20	4:40	10:50	5:10
14.	Sun.	.....	.....	6:15	12:10	6:40	29.	Mon.	.....	11:25	5:30	11:40	6:00
15.	Mon.	.....	12:25	7:00	12:55	7:20	30.	Tues.	.....	.....	6:20	12:15	6:45

### OCTOBER

AM				PM		AM				PM			
Date	Day	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Date	Day	Minor	Major	Minor	Major		
1.	Wed.	.....	12:30	7:10	1:00	7:35	17.	Fri.	.....	2:00	8:25	2:25	8:45
2.	Thurs.	.....	1:10	8:00	1:50	8:25	18.	Sat.	.....	2:35	9:05	3:00	9:25
3.	Fri.	.....	2:10	8:50	2:40	9:20	19.	Sun.	.....	3:15	9:45	3:40	10:05
4.	Sat.	.....	3:00	9:40	3:35	10:10	20.	Mon.	.....	3:55	10:30	4:20	10:45
5.	Sun.	.....	3:50	10:30	4:25	11:00	21.	Tues.	.....	4:40	11:15	5:00	11:40
6.	Mon.	.....	4:40	11:35	5:15	.....	22.	Wed.	.....	5:25	.....	5:55	12:10
7.	Tues.	.....	5:45	12:05	6:15	12:35	23.	Thurs.	.....	6:25	12:35	6:45	1:00
8.	Wed.	.....	6:50	1:10	7:20	1:40	24.	Fri.	.....	7:15	1:30	7:40	1:55
9.	Thurs.	.....	7:55	2:10	8:15	2:45	25.	Sat.	.....	8:10	2:25	8:35	2:55
10.	Fri.	.....	8:45	3:10	9:25	3:40	26.	Sun.	.....	9:10	3:25	9:35	3:50
11.	Sat.	.....	9:55	4:05	10:20	4:35	27.	Mon.	.....	10:05	4:20	10:30	4:50
12.	Sun.	.....	10:50	5:05	11:15	5:30	28.	Tues.	.....	11:05	5:10	11:20	5:35
13.	Mon.	.....	11:45	5:50	11:45	6:10	29.	Wed.	.....	11:50	5:55	.....	6:25
14.	Tues.	.....	.....	6:30	12:25	6:50	30.	Thurs.	.....	12:05	6:45	12:40	7:10
15.	Wed.	.....	12:40	7:10	1:05	7:30	31.	Fri.	.....	12:55	7:35	1:25	8:00
16.	Thurs.	.....	1:20	7:50	1:45	8:10							



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# The Forest Service versus The Wilderness Act

BY TED TRUEBLOOD



Billy Mitchell's old log cabin, above, and other historic buildings have now been destroyed by the Forest Service



This bridge across the Salmon River's Middle Fork will be burned if the Service adheres to its "purity" concept

**T**he United States Forest Service, of the Department of Agriculture, is trying to scuttle the Wilderness Act. It is using every available means from openly opposing inclusion of wilderness-quality areas in the National Wilderness System to issuing nit-picking regulations intended to harass the essential outfitters and guides and turn the public against the wilderness concept.

For ten long years conservationists argued that some Eastern national forest lands should be reviewed for wilderness. The Forest Service steadfastly held that no suitable areas existed; that man's past activities disqualified them forever. In desperation, the citizens' group finally appealed to Washington and in December, 1974, Congress passed a second wilderness measure that brought in eighteen new areas and made clear that the Wilderness System would, indeed, be national in scope.

"Purity" is the best dodge the Forest Service has found so far, and making progress against this subterfuge is like trying to paddle a canoe

through mud. I can almost weep over the Forest Service policy of burning old homestead cabins in wilderness and primitive areas. These weathered log buildings were picturesque, historic, and blended unobtrusively into their surroundings. They were evidence of a way of life that no longer exists.

On my first trip down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, in the Idaho Primitive Area, in 1938, we spent a couple of nights in the old Mahoney cabin, already long abandoned. But Billy Mitchell (not the Air Force general) still lived in his, about three miles by trail up Marble Creek from the Middle Fork. Both have now gone up in flames.

These widely scattered log cabins were not in conflict with that part of the definition of wilderness in the act that reads: "generally appearing to have been affected by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable"; . . .

Under the Wilderness Act, primitive areas existing at the time of its passage were to be reviewed within ten years by the Forest Service, a recommendation made to the Secre-

tary of Agriculture, by him to the President, and by the President, in turn, to Congress. This recommendation could be to retain the area as wilderness, open it up to roads and logging, and to expand or shrink the boundaries. I'm grateful Congress makes the final decision! Here is what is happening in the case of the one I know best:

The Idaho Primitive Area was created by executive decree in 1931 and the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area, just across the river, in 1936. Total acreage of the two is 1,441,059. At Forest Service hearings in 1973, the River of No Return Wilderness Council, backed by virtually every state and national conservation organization, asked for a combined wilderness of 2.3 million acres, taking in some high-quality contiguous areas. Even the Forest Service, before Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz got his licks in, went for 1.5. But when President Ford's recommendation got to Congress, it was for 1.1. Furthermore, it cut out the very heart of the area, Chamberlain Basin.

Road- (Please turn the page)

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less Chamberlain is probably the most elk range in America. In addition, it has moose, whitetail and mule deer, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goats around the edges, black bear, cougar, coyote, native red fox, a host of smaller mammals, salmon, steelhead, native cutthroat trout, three kinds of grouse, and an infinite variety of non-gamebirds. Friends who wrote the President in protest received the below stock reply signed by Zane G. Smith, Jr., from John R. McGuire, chief of the Forest Service.

Thank you for your inquiry to President Ford regarding the Idaho Wilderness proposal.

As you pointed out, the final proposal transmitted to the Congress by the President omitted the Chamberlain Basin area. This area contains some evidence of man's activities in the form of several airstrips and associated developments. There is development on some non-Federal lands and there is potential for wildlife habitat enhancement of a nature not permitted under wilderness designation. Large volumes of timber exist within the Basin, although at this time the timber cannot be economically harvested with existing technology. A modest mineral potential also exists.

In his review, the Secretary of Agriculture determined that the evidences of man's works, the opportunities for wildlife habitat improvement, and the potential for minerals development and timber harvest at some future date outweighed the merit for allocation of Chamberlain Basin to wilderness. The President concurred and, therefore, a revised proposal was submitted to Congress.

We appreciate your interest in this National Forest area.

I'd like to touch on some of the main points of the response.

"This area contains some evidence of man's activities in the form of several airstrips and associated developments."

There are three. At two the "associated developments" are Forest Service administrative buildings. The third is on the Root Ranch.

"There is development on some non-Federal lands."

There are two old, patented homesteads within the 300,000 acres deleted by President Ford: the Stonebraker Ranch of 409 acres and the Root Ranch of 158 acres. Out of 300,000 acres, their total is like a fly speck on a picture window. Furthermore, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission now owns the Stonebraker Ranch; the Root Ranch is a hunting camp. So while they may be non-federal, the connotation of "de-

velopment" is completely misleading.

"... and there is potential for wildlife habitat enhancement of a nature not permitted under wilderness designation."

This statement is absurd. How can you improve on the best there is? Chamberlain is unique in having ideal winter range within a few miles of ideal summer range. Well-documented studies have proved that roading and logging decimate elk herds. The process wipes out sheep and goats and doesn't help any of the other wildlife.

"Large volumes of timber exist within the Basin..."

Compared to a farmer's back-forty woodlot, the volumes are, indeed, large. In the overall picture the statement is ridiculous. The Pacific Northwest exports more timber to Japan in four days than could be cut in Chamberlain in a year. Besides, the taxpayers would have to build the necessary roads to get the timber out.

"A modest mineral potential also exists."

This is true—very modest. In a century of mine exploration and mining, the entire Idaho Primitive Area (not just Chamberlain) has yielded about \$20,000 per year.

TO FURTHER limit the extent of the proposed River of No Return Wilderness, the Forest Service is rushing ahead with plans to road and log contiguous areas of wilderness quality before Congress has had an opportunity to make the decision that rightfully belongs to it. Then when the time comes the Forest Service can say, "Look, you can't include this area; there are roads everywhere," even though there were no existing roads before the summer of 1975.

There are dedicated and sincere men within the ranks of the Forest Service who recognize the value of wilderness, yet by education and indoctrination the majority are forest-products oriented and thereby anti-wilderness. They can see a tree only as so many board feet of lumber. So the Forest Service, prompted by Secretary Butz, is setting up its own management plans—plans neither required nor authorized by the Wilderness Act.

In 1973, the supervisor of the Flathead National Forest, which includes the Bob Marshall Wilderness, in Montana, ordered the outfitters to remove their caches, corrals, and hitch rails, claiming this was required by the Act. It would entail a great deal of labor and expense to tear down all facilities and pack out all camp gear at the end of one season, then reverse the process at the beginning of the next.

But under "Special Provisions," the Wilderness Act states: "Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper (Continued on page 40)





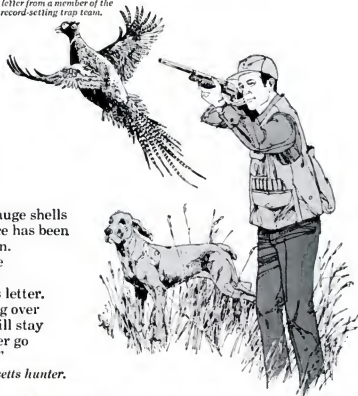
Team members William T. Lafferty, O. N. Hamilton, Gary R. Montcalm, George L. Perry and Jerry C. Vernon fired at 15,000 registered targets in 14½ hours. Federal Champion and Champion II loads were used exclusively and there was not one single misfire or malfunction.

## "I fired 3,000 Federals in one day to help set a world's record..."

*Guess what ammo I take hunting..."*

"...it was October 26, 1974. The shooting began shortly after sunrise. When the last shot was fired, 14½ hours later, the five of us had fired at a total of 15,000 clay targets, establishing a new world's record. And, there wasn't a single misfire with the Federal shotshells we relied on. Of course, I've been hunting with Federals for years... I choose them for hunting for the same reasons that I choose them for trapshooting... they're hard-hitting, deliver superior patterns... and most important of all, they give me absolute dependability, shot after shot."

*Excerpt of a letter from a member of the world's first record-setting trap team.*



## "Shell performance has been excellent..."

"Dear Sirs:

"This year I started using Federal high brass 12 gauge shells on pheasant, squirrel and rabbit. Shell performance has been excellent, although my shooting hasn't always been.

I wish to put a question to you. Why do your rifle cartridges perform better than others I have used?

You may not want to answer my question or this letter. Whether you do or not, I wish to tell you I am going over completely to Federal cartridges and shells, and will stay with them as long as they are this good. If they ever go the way of (a competitive brand), I'll load my own."

*Excerpt of a letter from a Massachusetts hunter.*

## "My Dad has bought more Federals than any other brand"



"Dear Sirs,

"I like your .410 shells because they hit your game with a great amount of force. I am only 12 years old and my Dad has bought more of your Federal .410 shotgun shells than any other brand. They were the first shells I shot in a gun. I think Federal ammo is the best brand for me."

*Letter from a young Michigan hunter.*

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# Our Endangered Tradition

## Jamaica's anti-gun fiasco

BY E. B. MANN

I hope all our anti-gun legislators, state and federal, saw CBS' program, "60 Minutes," aired in this area over Station WTVT (Tampa, Florida) on Sunday evening, May 25th. The anti-gun clique keeps telling us how strict, and strictly enforced, gun laws would curb crime and benefit our society. This program showed, in terms that should have shocked even the most fanatic anti-gunners, how one of the strictest gun laws ever enacted, under brutal Gestapo-style enforcement, failed to do either for our island neighbor, Jamaica.

The following comes from notes taken while watching the program, and from published data, outstanding among which is the detailed on-scene report by staff writer Stanley Meisler in the *Los Angeles Times*, May 11, 1975.

The program started like a typical anti-gun documentary, with flurries of gunfire, a sequence of hands firing pistols, the familiar fanfare of violence. But then began an on-scene report on the operation and effect of the infamous "gun court" set up in Kingston, the capital city of Jamaica, to enforce the island-wide ban on guns in private ownership.

The Jamaica ban on guns was enacted in March, 1973, during a period of semi-hysteria following the hold-up/shootings of four prominent Kingston businessmen—hysteria similar to that which we in America have witnessed in recent years.

Jamaica had a crime problem, no doubt about it. Since Jamaican independence in 1962, the murder rate in the Kingston area had increased 4½ times, the robbery rate four times, the shooting rate 9½ times. Kingston's murder rate was twenty-seven per 100,000 population—higher than New York City (21.4) or Los Angeles (17.7), but not as high as Cleveland (41.3) or Detroit (40.1), or Washington, D. C. (32.8) for that year. So it should be noted that our anti-gun propagandists have the same arguments to offer as did

the anti-gun fanatics in Jamaica.

So the Jamaica gun ban was enacted, and a concentration-camp-type stockade was set up in Kingston—high fences topped with rolls of barbed wire; sentry towers manned by riflemen. Squads of heavily armed enforcers were sent out to find and confiscate guns; all guns, long or short, no matter how innocently owned; and not only guns but ammunition. A shotgun shell or a cartridge was as incriminating as a gun.

"60 Minutes" interviewed Prime Minister Michael Manley, Jamaican Chief of State, who fostered the law. In that interview, and in statements to other news sources, Manley said: "I believe in a democratic form of government—equal justice for all persons. . . A society that has succumbed to lawlessness has no room for freedom!"

But Manley's interpretation of "equal justice to all" might better be called equal injustice to all. It gave police the right to stop and frisk any person, any time, any where, on mere suspicion or simply at random; the right to search vehicles, homes, or places of business without cause, without warrant; and the right to confiscate guns or ammunition without recourse or remuneration. The police would then arrest any person they chose to accuse of "possession," and fling him into the "gun court" stockade "to await trial." No bail was permitted. The wait for trial could be a matter of hours, or days, or weeks. The trial was a secret kangaroo court proceeding, with no jury, no friend or relative of the accused admitted, no news media allowed. The sentence? An indeterminate term at hard labor. Unless you had friends with political clout, you were literally at the mercy of the court. And the court showed little mercy!

Carl Hawkins, an American from South Carolina, was caught, not with a gun but with two cartridges in his pocket. He (Please turn the page)





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says he had shown them to customs officers on his arrival and was told that they were thereby "registered" and "legal." But he was found guilty, and he told "60 Minutes" that he was treated "exactly as if he had been caught holding up a bank." (Actually, no gun-law enforcers ever caught anyone they could accuse of murder or armed robbery; the worst crime charged was "possession.") Hawkins said he just could not believe what was happening to him, would not have believed such things could happen outside Nazi Germany. (He didn't know that anti-gun-law enforcers here in America have smashed their way into homes without warrants in unconstitutional searches and seizures, have even shot to kill during such searches. But it's true, and we ask anti-gun proponents, "Is this what you want?")

LEADING Jamaican attorneys called the gun law and the "gun court" unconstitutional, "a flagrant invasion of civil rights," and worse. Jamaican Commissioner of Correction, Thomas Durrige, himself admits that the gun ban, even with this kind of enforcement, "did not get the hard-core criminals. Those types just wrapped their guns in plastic, buried them, and waited. The only way to get a hard-core gun man is to shoot him!"

Question: What is "a hard-core gun man?" He is not necessarily a criminal. There are thousands of gun owners in America—hunters, collectors, target shooters, believers in the Second Amendment, all law-abiding, tax-paying, community-serving citizens—who might also "wrap their guns in plastic and bury them" if threatened with confiscation by goon squads smashing into homes and places of business without warrants.

Millions of other American citizens who do not own guns or want to own them would (or should!), nevertheless, bitterly, perhaps even violently, resent any such invasion of their constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment "to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures."

In Nazi Germany, children were taught that it was their duty to betray even their parents if disagreement with Party doctrines was suspected. In Jamaica, clerics preached from their pulpits that "You are obligated before Almighty God to turn in anyone who owns a gun!" Is this what anti-gunners want to happen?

Whatever they want, they should look carefully at what happened in Jamaica. The Jamaican law was finally ruled unconstitutional, as would happen here. But it existed for more than a year under brutal, Gestapo-type enforcement—and it failed. Crime rates did go down a little during the first two or three months of goon-squad intimidation, but then they climbed. Well before

(Continued on page 28)



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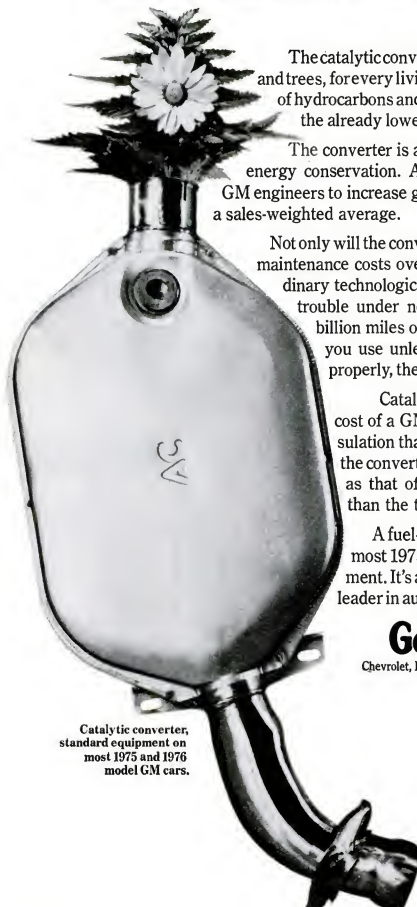
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the ban was ended, crimes of violence (including gun crimes) were worse than before the ban. That, too, could happen here. Why not, with criminals sure that they would meet no armed resistance? Years ago, a New York City police lieutenant condemned the Sullivan Law because, if for no other reason, "The only bad mistake a New York City burglar can make is to bust into the home of a cop, or of another crook. Nobody else will have a gun!"

Americans who are concerned about the prevalence of crime in our country (and what American isn't!) should read the published opinions of Jamaican and other psychologists and criminologists that Jamaica's crime problems were, and are, due not to guns but to "the desperation of poverty," to unemployment, weak law enforcement due to lack of adequate personnel and equipment, and to the laxity of the courts in punishing convicted offenders. Here, even in this country which other peoples see and envy as a land of plenty, the same causes apply.

The Jamaican fiasco is only one of many examples of the fact that restrictive gun controls do not curb crime. The New York City Sullivan Law, in operation now for more than half a century, is another. Yet willful men still preach gun control as a panacea against crime. Attorney General Levi, for example, proposes the banning of handguns in high-crime areas, the very areas in which fearful citizens need guns most . . . citizens justly fearful because law enforcement agencies (of which the Attorney General is the national commander in chief) have proved unable to protect them from the violence of the community.

Pro-gun people heaved a sigh of relief when President Ford, in his news conference on May 6, said, "I am not going to recommend the registration of gun owners, and I am not going to recommend the registration of guns." But it was no sooner said than anti-gunners condemned the President for saying it. One such was the ranking Republican on the House Judiciary subcommittee on crime, Congressman Robert McClory (R-Ill.), who deplored "lack of presidential leadership" for gun control. But McClory did make one cogent statement of fact when he said, "Enforcement of current gun laws is a travesty. Criminals are receiving ridiculously lenient treatment from the courts."

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## BROWNING

# Conservation

BY GEORGE REIGER



## Back When the Nation Was New

*In observance of the Bicentennial, FIELD & STREAM has commissioned its department editors to take a look at our past and at our future—where we have come from and where we are going. The series commences this month with our Conservation Editor's biography of the nation's first outdoor writer.*

**M**eriwether Lewis and William Clark were still writing their report for Thomas Jefferson on their monumental expedition to the West when a child was born in England who would one day personify the consummate American sportsman. In his lifetime, Henry William Herbert would be reviled as a "foreigner," a "fake," and a "wastrel" whose only interests were the unproductive pursuits of hunting, fishing, and horsemanship. Yet his sensitivity to the destruction of the great and varied resources he found in North America and his writings of concern and protest struck sparks that have since flamed into an international ethic called conservation.

As a young man, neither his parents nor he ever envisioned such a role for himself. His father was the Honorable William Herbert, Doctor of Laws, Member of Parliament, third son of Henry Herbert, Lord Portchester, and first Earl of Carnarvon. His mother was Letitia Emily Dorothea, second daughter of Joshua, Fifth Viscount Allen. Born into such a distinguished family, William Henry was expected to devote his life to expanding the fortunes of the Herbert dynasty. Instead, Herbert was forced to flee England shortly after graduating from Cambridge University with high honors.

We have absolutely no details as to why at 24 years of age this promising young man was sent into exile. His English contemporaries remained silent, and only two of his American hunting companions: Anson Livingston, grandson of William Livingston, first Governor of New Jersey following the Revolution, and Herbert's attorney, Philo T. Ruggles, ever knew the story, and they took their secret to the grave. Gambling debts have always been cited as the ostensible cause for banishment, but since we know that Herbert's father paid off the young man's obligations within the first year of his going overseas, we are left with further speculation and mystery.

Whatever the sin, it didn't inhibit Herbert's writing talents nor his enthusiasm for the New World. He arrived in New York City in 1831, a town of 250,000 where steam ferries-boats between Manhattan and Brooklyn had just been introduced to a skeptical public. The scars of the American Revolution were healed, and the 18th century was symbolically buried that year along with ex-President James Monroe. Although dispossessed, Herbert was a young man in a nation of young men, most of whom with fewer prospects than his own. The poets Emerson, Longfellow, and Whittier were just getting started in New England; Edgar Allen Poe, who would one day praise Herbert's "clear, neat, forceful ability," had just been kicked out of West Point for "neglect of duty and disobedience of orders"; and young Abraham Lincoln was still splitting rails and reading law by firelight in New Salem, Illinois.

While Herbert always remained loyal to the culture of England, he was impatient and ruthless in print with Americans who took on the

airs of European aristocrats. He saw that the United States was different than Europe and that its spirit and culture emanated from the frontier—a frontier of deep forests, swift and sometimes violent streams, and wildlife, most of all, the wildlife!

In Herbert's day, frontier country for the sportsman began just west of the Hudson. To be sure, there were farms scattered throughout this region, but many were owned by wild-spirited Dutchmen who looked with suspicion on the Anglo-Americans. Wolves were still reputed to roam remote corners of Orange County, New York, and Sussex County, New Jersey, and Dutchman Dolph Pierson, one of the great buckskin characters of outdoor literature, describes his confrontation with a pack of wolves in Herbert's *The Deerstalkers*, a mystery adventure whose cool-headed, clue-seeking, and murder-solving hero may have inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's later creation of Sherlock Holmes.

Although Herbert arrived in New York with a few hundred dollars in his pocket, he quickly spent that on his first hunting trip to Orange County and, that fall, on an expedition to Canada. Throughout his life, Herbert spent money as quickly as he earned it, but in the winter of 1831, he was broke. Returning to Manhattan, he took a job teaching Greek and Latin in the Reverend R. Townsend Huddart's Classical Institute located just off Bowling Green. He worked there eight years before his many publishing activities enabled him to quit teaching and devote full attention to his writing.

Most of Herbert's early efforts were elaborate stories and novels about such historical figures as England's Cromwell and Rome's Catinella. His (*Please turn the page*)

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father was the first English translator of the Icelandic sagas and was working on *Attila*, an epic poem in twelve volumes, when Henry William was ostracized from England. Perhaps the younger Herbert nurtured the hope that if he could establish a reputation for "serious work" in America, he would one day be permitted to return home and pursue his career there.

William T. Porter, editor of *The American Turf Register*, and his brother George, co-owners of *Spirit of the Times*, sensed Herbert's frustration, but saw that his real talent lay with another kind of writing. It was the Porter brothers who persuaded Herbert to devote his energies to writing stories of field and track, and it was they who suggested he use the pseudonym, "Frank Forester."

In the beginning, Herbert had used "Harry Archer" as a byline, and the character "Harry Archer" eventually evolved into Herbert's (and America's) ideal sporting type: sophisticated yet thoughtful, wise in the ways of wildlife, but most of all, a crack shot and superb horseman. However, starting with the May/June issue of *The American Turf Register*, "Frank Forester" became Herbert's official outdoor-writing byline. Six years later, the first cluster of Frank Forester stories were collected and published as *The Warwick Woodlands*, and Herbert found to his surprise and delight that both his English and American readers preferred the sporting writings of Frank Forester to the novels of Henry William Herbert. He then made public the fact they were one and the same man, and, thereafter, most of his outdoor writings bore both names.

So MANY American leaders are currently caught up with helping sell the Bicentennial that there are few opinion-makers left to answer the important questions: What's so special about 1976? What value is there in looking back? How can we relate to Americans living 200 years ago? Their lives were so very different from our own.

First of all, their lives were *not* so different from our own. Certainly, in the realm of outdoor sport, black powder was a way of life, not merely a hobby. Horses were daily transportation, not rural relics. However, the skills to shoot a gun, cast a fly, train a dog, or to distinguish animal tracks are the same today as they were then. And a man's love of outdoor sport has not changed in 200 years.

Secondly, and more important, where there are major differences between then and now, there are usually lessons for today—and tomorrow. Compare the following lines from *The Warwick Woodlands* describing Herbert's first visit to the "vale of Ramapo" in the 1830s with his footnotes on the New York and New Jersey countryside twenty years later. And then compare both these

excerpts with this landscape today.

"A few miles farther yet, the road wheeled round the base of Tourne Mountain, a magnificent bold hill, with a bare craggy head, its sides and skirts thick with cedars and hickory—entering a defile through which the Ramapo, one of the loveliest streams eye ever looked upon, comes rippling with its crystal waters over bright pebbles, on its way to join the two kindred rivulets which form the fair Passaic. Throughout the whole of that defile, nothing can possibly surpass the loveliness of nature: the road hard, and smooth, and level, winding and wheeling parallel to the gurgling river, crossing it two or three times in each mile, now on one side, and now on the other—the valley now barely broad enough to permit the highway and the stream to pass between the abrupt masses of rock and forest, and now expanding into rich basins of green meadowland, the deepest and most fertile possible—the hills of every shape and size—here bold, and bare, and rocky—there swelling up in great round masses, pile upon pile of verdure, to the blue firmament of autumn."

TWENTY years later, Henry William Herbert wrote:

"It is almost a painful task to read over and revise this chapter. . . . Of the persons mentioned in its pages, more than one have passed away from our world forever; and even the natural features of rock, wood, and river, in other countries so vastly more enduring than their perishable owners, have been so much altered by the march of improvement, Heaven save the mark! that the traveler up the Erie railroad, will certainly not recognize in the description of the vale of Ramapo, the hillsides all denuded of their leafy honors, the bright streams dammed by unsightly mounds and changed into foul stagnant pools, the snug country tavern deserted for a huge hideous barnlike depot, and all the lovely sights and sweet harmonies of nature defaced and drowned by the deformities consequent on a railroad, by the disgusting roar and screech of the steam-engine. One word to the wise! Let no man be deluded by the following pages, into setting forth for Warwick now in search of sporting. These things are strictly as they were *twenty years ago!* Mr. Seward, in his zeal for the improvement of Chataque and Cattaraugus, has certainly destroyed the [wood]cock shooting of Orange County. . . ."

William Henry Seward is best known today as the U.S. Secretary of State who negotiated the purchase of Alaska. Yet from 1849 to 1861, this former Governor served New York as a U.S. Senator and was a great proponent of railways and heavy industry for the state. As we have seen, Frank Forester reckoned there were costs that had not been fairly calculated in such "progress"—and said so.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Release catch inside trigger guard (Overdorf style)	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Anti-bullet mash magazine	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Superb metal polish—no machining marks	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand checked walnut stock	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> "Roller" Monte Carlo cheek piece	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wundhammer palm swell for extra grip comfort	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Double ventilated rubber recoil pad	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Genuine rosewood forend tip and grip cap	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Flip-up, adjustable rearsight	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Elegant front sight ramp with hood	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fitted sling swivels	✓	
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## The forest service versus the wilderness act

(Continued from page 18)

for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas."

The Bob Marshall, one of the original wildernesses created by the Act in 1964, is big—950,000 acres. It would be impossible to hunt without camps and horses, and though anyone is free to hike at will, even during the summer many would-be visitors simply couldn't manage without the assistance of guides and outfitters and their horses.

The Bob Marshall Management Plan, of which the order just discussed is a part, was one of the first completed. Similar plans have now been written for about a third of the eighty-five wilderness areas in the national forests, and others are being prepared, along with plans for some primitive areas. The general policy appears to be aimed toward making the outfitters' operations as difficult as possible—moving camps each year, closing landing strips, and similar rules not required by the Wilderness Act.

Here is an example of usurpation of authority by the Forest Service that was specifically prohibited in the Wilderness Act:

Under the heading, "Fisheries," of the Selway-Bitterroot (Idaho and Montana) Wilderness Management Plan: "(1) No planting where there has been no past history. Attempt to keep remaining native gene pools intact. (2) No introduction or continued stocking of non-native species . . . (6) Presently barren lakes will be left unplanted."

The Wilderness Act states: "Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to fish and wildlife in the national forests."

IN STREAMS, such as some in the Bob Marshall where I have caught only native cutthroat, the attempt to maintain the pure strain of that fish is laudable, though it is clearly the responsibility of the State of Montana, not the Forest Service. The other rules quoted can only be intended to turn the public against wilderness.

Most of the high mountain lakes in the West had no native fish. Formed by glaciers, isolated by waterfalls or near-vertical rapids, these lakes were unreachable by trout that swam in lower-elevation streams. On a backpacking trip through the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho forty-two years ago, my brother and I visited thirty-six lakes that we considered suitable for trout. There was not a single fish in any of them! Today, many of these same lakes provide good fishing to those who reach them, thanks to stocking.

Several years ago on a trip in the Bridger Wilderness, in Wyoming, I

enjoyed excellent fishing for brook, rainbow, and California golden trout, none of which were native. Did catching a 3-pound golden from a timberline lake spoil my wilderness experience? No way!

Of course, had the "purity" dodge been in effect at that time I would have broken a rule every time I tied my horse within 300 feet of a lake. I wouldn't have been allowed to tie him to any tree for more than two hours, either.

I CAN'T list all the rules the Forest Service has devised to harass the packers, guides, and outfitters, both on the rivers and in the mountains. But these rules, if upheld, will eventually force some of them out of business and prevent many people from visiting the wilderness or lead to others doing so ill-equipped.

I've wondered how the Forest Service can get by with such an arbitrary course. Here is the explanation given by James W. Moorman, former executive director of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, in an address before the American Law Institute-American Bar Association Conference on Environmental Law in San Francisco, February 9, 1974:

"Today, the central problem of litigating environmental causes with the United States Government is that of litigating with a discretionary government, a government of men, rather than a government of laws. On questions affecting the environment, our executive branch has assumed for itself a discretion not merited by law, indeed has exalted its discretion over the law, which it has relegated to the background role of legitimizing presumptive delegates of discretion to itself. . . .

"How does the executive branch convert statutory mandates that should govern its conduct into loose discretionary licenses? One way is by issuing so-called administrative interpretations in the form of general counsels' opinions, secretaries' opinions, attorney generals' opinions, and the like.

"There is a general rule that when a court is faced with an ambiguous statute, it should give deference to the interpretation of the agency charged with the administration of that statute. The government seems to believe that this rule means that it simply can change the law by issuing an opinion. . . .

"In a nation as large and diverse as ours, the consequences of lawless government are resentment, disillusion, bitterness, suspicion, and division."

That is precisely what the anti-wilderness Forest Service, in line with Ford Administration policy, is seeking to accomplish.





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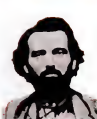
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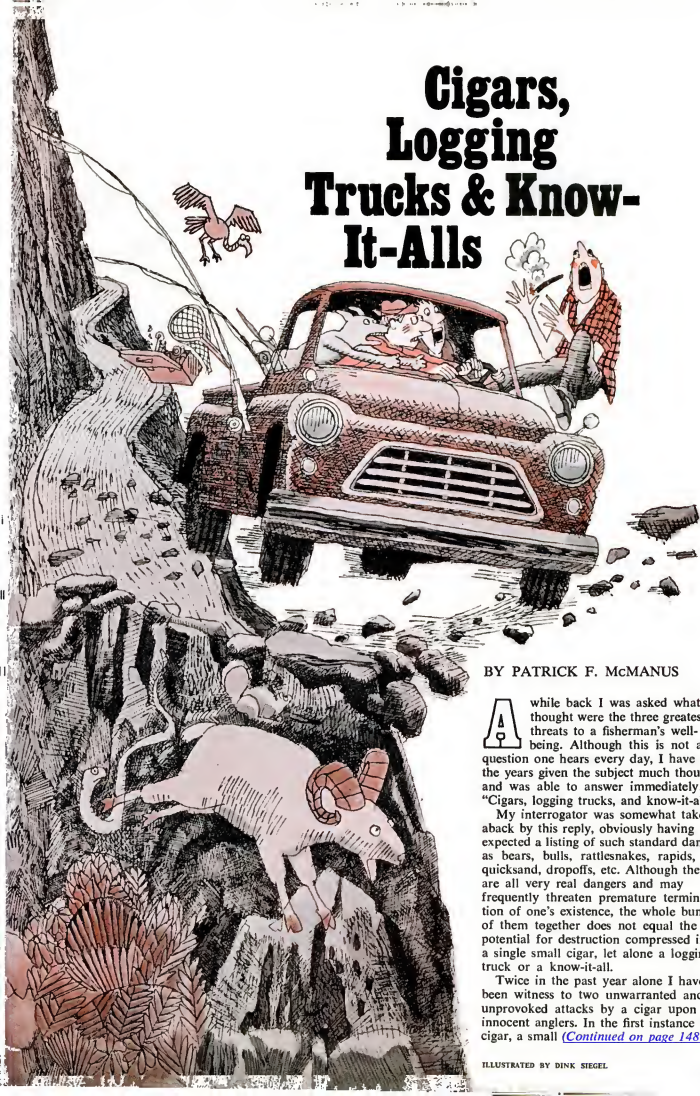


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# Cigars, Logging Trucks & Know- It-Alls



BY PATRICK F. McMANUS

**A** while back I was asked what I thought were the three greatest threats to a fisherman's well-being. Although this is not a question one hears every day, I have over the years given the subject much thought and was able to answer immediately: "Cigars, logging trucks, and know-it-alls."

My interrogator was somewhat taken aback by this reply, obviously having expected a listing of such standard dangers as bears, bulls, rattlesnakes, rapids, quicksand, dropoffs, etc. Although these are all very real dangers and may frequently threaten premature termination of one's existence, the whole bunch of them together does not equal the potential for destruction compressed into a single small cigar, let alone a logging truck or a know-it-all.

Twice in the past year alone I have been witness to two unwarranted and unprovoked attacks by a cigar upon innocent anglers. In the first instance the cigar, a small (*Continued on page 148*)

ILLUSTRATED BY DINK SIEGEL

# BEST HUNTING HOTSPOTS IN THE WEST

BY LARRY GREEN, WEST COAST EDITOR

ALASKA CALIFORNIA ARIZONA COLORADO

HAWAII IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO OREGON

UTAH WASHINGTON WYOMING

## ALASKA

■ At this writing pow-wows were still going on in the 50th state to consider having a musk ox hunt this year, as supposedly Alaska has regained its management authorities over the herd. Another controversy still brewing this year is whether or not aerial wolf hunts should be allowed.

The Fish and Game board voted to increase the number of permits for full curl sheep in the Tok Management Area from 60 to 120, and set the season for Aug. 10-25.

Brown bear hunting has been opened in the Cold Bay area, but brown bear hunting will be closed this year in the Arctic National Wildlife refuge. The D.F.G. has also rejected a proposal to allow a special primitive weapons hunt to be held ten days before the opening of the regular statewide big-game seasons.

General waterfowl hunting for Alaska is always rated excellent, but this year even greater things are expected out of that great waterfowl habitat area in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Of particular interest this season is that good ptarmigan possibilities are in Alpine areas along the Richardson, Anchorage-Fairbanks, and Steese highways.

The only down note this season seems to be with hares; they are rated very low in their population cycle for some reason, although there are a few areas of local abundance.

Several dall sheep areas are noteworthy for this coming year. Scattered ranges exist from the White Mountains south end east to Eagle along the Yukon River. You might pay particular attention to the areas around Beaver Creek, West Point, and Charley River, also northwest of Eagle along the Seventy Mile River. Greeter populations are scattered throughout the Alaska Range from the Mentasta Mountains west of McKinley Park. Deadman Mountain south of Summit should also be a good dell sheep area.

For grizzly and black bear the best hunting should be found along the Delta River just south of Delta Junction. Don't forget the new regulations effective July 1, 1975 require persons taking bears, which have been marked by the Alaska D.F.G. for scientific studies, to notify the D.F.G. of

the date and location of the kill. All ear tags, collars, tattoos, or other identifications must be retained with the hide until it has been sealed.

Two good areas to watch for bison this season are in the Alaska Range along the South Fork River south of Nikolai end in the Wrangell Mountains just east of the Copper River, between Gekona and Lower Tonsine. This same area is a predicted hotspot for moose.

The caribou range is wide and the herds appear to be in great shape. The major herds are in the Brooks range.

Waterfowl hunting along the Yukon River from Rampart east along the Yukon all the way to Circle in District 20-C is always a good bet, and of course the entire Alaska peninsula remains the top waterfowl area. Among the waterfowl hotspots for the coming season are the Tenana Flats between Nenane and North Pole and

south of the West Fork River between Susitna and Gulkene Junction.

The best predicted areas for fall moose are in the areas of Ketchumstuk and Veta Mountains around the Teylor Highway near Chicken and Bonanza Ber along the Alaska/Yukon border.

For further information and maps of game management units write: Fairbanks area: Board of Fish & Game, Dept. F, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, Ale., 99701. In Juneau area: Board of Fish & Game, Dept. F, Education and Information, Subport Bldg., Juneau, Ala., 99801.

## ARIZONA

■ Arizona hunters should keep their fingers crossed as this will be the first year that all permit drawings will be done by computer.

A good note to start with is that small-game populations are up sharply, and small-game hunting should be mostly good statewide this season. Javeline are still receiving growing interest in the state and when this season kicks off (generally Feb. 28-March 5 in southeastern Arizona) hunters will find the stiff-haired critters scattered widely from the Roosevelt Lake area above Globe south along Highway 80-89 to Nogales on the Mexican border. The javeline range also extends from Globe south to the Gila River near Dudleyville, and then east along Highway 70 all the way to the border of New Mexico. This is a big range that takes up a major portion of the southeast corner of Arizona. Too much pressure makes pinpointing them in a certain small area impossible; but generally this whole range is excellent. Local sources can be a big help in the area you're in.

Arizona's antlered whitetail late deer hunt, Dec. 8-21, should be good in the Chiricahua Mountains of the Colorado National Forest, right at the southeastern tip of the state.

Elk areas 4A, 5A and B, and 6A are scheduled for a general early season Sept. 26-Oct. 1, with the late season Nov. 29-Dec. 7. The best hunting should be near Cleer Creek, but the elk range is as wide as fifty miles from Highway 17 south of Flagstaff east to about the Chevelon Creek drainage. Highway 87 from Winslow south to Pine runs through the heart of the better elk country.

Antelope hunting in Unit 10 this year is still undetermined as of this writing but is expected to be Sept. 20-22 with an archery shoot in Units 6A and 6B Sept. 5-21. The prime antelope herds are in the Coconino Plateau areas between highways 66 and 180 north and west of Williams and Red Lake east to Rose Wells.

This year's best outlook for big mule deer comes out of North Kaibab in the Kaibab National Forest and Kaibab Plateau. Highway 67 from Jacob Lake south to North Rim cuts through prime Arizona mule deer country.

Turkey hunting in the San Francisco Mountains just north of Flagstaff in areas 6B and 7 should be very good. It's a spring hunt that runs April 17-25.

Arizona's bighorn sheep seasons are set this year as Oct. 11-27 for the early season and Dec. 6-21 for the late season. The Kofa Mountains in the southwest corner of the state is the prime sheep country. The Kofa Mountain Range is situated on the Kofa Game Range area—the military proving grounds. Hunters are cautioned not to leave any of the main marked roads.



Hunters should pay close attention to all warning signs in the Kofa Game Range area.

Some other big-game hunting dates just made available are as follows: Mountain lion, year-round (some exceptions); bear, Sept. 6-14 in Units 31-32, Sept. 1-Dec. 31 for the general season, and Jan. 1-15 for archery. A special buffalo season on the Raymond Ranch and Housarock Ranch opens Oct. 18-29.

For further information on hunting in Arizona write: Arizona Game & Fish Dept., Dept. F, 2222 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix, Ariz., 85023.

## CALIFORNIA

■ It's no secret that the Golden State has long suffered the hunters' ridicule for having the worst possible deer hunting prospects. California's populations of both mule and blacktail bucks have been declining steadily for ten years.

This year the California Department of Fish and Game, operating under its newly appointed director, Charles Fullerton, plans a massive assault on correcting the state's deplorable deer hunting reputation. The D.F.G. plans to enact some new concepts of deer management—now to California that is. Public hearings were scheduled for this summer to inform the public of these plans, although at this writing it's not clear what the D.F.G. new deer policy will be. I can speculate that a major focus, and subsequently a major controversy, will be either-sex deer hunts and management of lands suitable for good deer habitat.

So again it appears that the bucks-only hunting regulations will bring more poor hunting. If you're bent on a trophy rack you had better pick your area carefully, then plan to backpack in where nobody else has sat foot.

California's early deer season begins Aug. 2 and ends Sept. 14. Early archery is July 4-20. Late deer or inland season is Sept. 22-Oct. 19 and the archery dates are Aug. 23-Sept. 14.

Another uproar occurred this year over waterfowl shooting when the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service adopted a radical change in hunting privileges on both Lake and Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuges, California's prime early season waterfowl public shooting areas. The Fish & Wildlife people gave California waterfowlers a shock by announcing half-day-only hunts on both these refuges, meaning that hunters would have to hang up their shotguns at 1 P.M. daily. At this writing it is being heavily contested and is still a stick in a hornet's nest.

Bear are about the only exciting big game to hunt in California. Bear hunting should be prime again this year when the season sets off Sept. 20-Dec. 14 for the early season, and Oct. 11-Jan. 4 for the late season. Archery seasons for bear are Aug. 23-Sept. 14. The entire Trinity Forest Lands of Trinity County remain unmatched as the top bear-producing areas. A relatively smaller area to watch for good bear prospects this year is that rugged country just north of Highway 299 between Round Mountain and Burney. Look for Iron Canyon Reservoir near Big Bend on the map for excellent bear habitat.

Pig hunting is year-round this season with one pig per hunter a day the limit. Three top pig spots are Dya Creek Preserve out of Red Bluff, Monterey to Big Sur, and the Coastal Mountain Range inland to U.S.



101 from Haalsburg to Willits.

Upland gambad hunters have been heavily patronizing private, licensed gambad clubs for pheasants as well as for ducks and geese because almost no public lands are available other than State and federal refuges. California is practically locked up tight in private ownership.

The state does have some exceptionally great coastal quail and cottontail shooting that extends practically all along its 1,400-mile Pacific border.

Rabbit season this year gets underway Sept. 1-Feb. 1. The bag and possession limit is five rabbits per hunter a day.

Turkey hunting is still growing with passion here. Some of the better turkey areas are in the foothills of the Lassen Range west of Interstate 5 between Red Bluff and Redding. Southern turkey spots are near Raymond east of Madara and Ash Mountain Park east of Woodlake. An excellent turkey area along the coast is just north of Cachuma Reservoir near Santa Ynez.

The squirrel season is set this year for Sept. 20-Feb. 1. Best bets are Lake, Mendocino, and Humboldt counties.

For further information write: The Resources Agency, Dept. of Fish and Game, Dapt. F, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, Ca. 95814. NOTE: New hunters must first pass a state hunter safety course before receiving their first hunting license.

## COLORADO

■ This year the bright news about hunting in Colorado is elk. Populations are up again and the prospects look excellent statewide. Last year Colorado had the highest kill factor ever recorded with a total bag statewide of 23,946 elk, up 20 percent over the previous year. This year the bull elk season gets underway Oct. 11 and runs through Oct. 21. All of Colorado's special hunts, like cow elk, etc., will now be done by computer, so keep your fingers crossed.

The depressing news is about Colorado's deer herds, particularly in the northwestern part of the state where two severe winters in a row have caused substantial fawn loss in some of the major deer herds. Colorado's general deer season has been set for Oct. 25-Nov. 4. Hunters will see some tightening and changes in regulating the hunting in the northwestern hard-hit sections where the herds are down sharply from previous years.

Other than this, no other major game policy changes will be made this year concerning Colorado game.

That three-day, special-drawing antelope hunt will take place this year on Sept. 27, 28, 29.

Limited hunting areas and a relatively small number of animals have caused big-horn sheep and mountain goat hunts to be restricted to residents only. Bear in mind that combined, Colorado's resident and nonresident hunters exceed 270,000 annually, according to Dick Hess of the Division of Wildlife. For example, more than 12,000 hunters will be trying to outwit antelope this season on hands ranging on both sides of the Continental Divide. Antelope is a drawing-only hunt.

The majority of Colorado's elk will range in areas from 7,500 to 10,500 feet; it is one hunt that depends on the weather. Here are seven excellent elk ranges to watch this season: White River Plateau; Elk River-Gore Pass; Rio Grande-San Juan-Pina River; Hermosa-Upper Dolores; Gunnison-Grand Mesa; Eagle-Frying Pan-Roaring Fork; and Cold Spring Mountain.

Here are some key areas to watch for deer: the Eagle-Colorado River drainage from White River National Forest to Grand Junction; the Uncompahgre National Forest and surrounding lands from Mesa to Silverton; Minnesota Crank-North Fork of the Gunnison-Grand Mesa (just south of the Grand Mesa National Forest along Highways 92 and 133 from about Austin to Somers); Gunnison-Sapinero-Lake Fork. (From Gunnison fifty miles in any direction is good.) North Park where Highway 125 cuts through Routt and Arapaho National Forest Lands north to about Cowdrey is also prime deer country.

Prime areas for lion hunting should be Cripple Creek, Fort Carson, Westcliffe, and San Isabel National Forest of Custer County.

All upland game and waterfowl should remain par to last year. A special note should be made on Colorado's eastern plains where the dove hunting is always superb.

For further information write: Information Officer, Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, Dept. F, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colo. 80216.

## HAWAII

■ The most popular hunting area with resident hunters in Hawaii is the Mauna Kea Game Management Area Unit A, Hawaii County, Hawaii. Game animals in this unit include feral goats, pigs, sheep, and mouflon. The gamebirds are mainly ringnecked pheasant, chukar, California Valley quail, and turkey.

This year an open season on feral sheep and mouflon is expected. The proposed season for feral sheep is August and September with the bag limit set at one sheep per hunter a year. Hunters will be scheduled for one weekend during the season by a public drawing. This year talks are brewing about an archery-only season for the last two weekends of July.

The Mauna Kea Game Management Area is about 80,000 acres of unique habitat. It is relatively steep hunting country with elevations that range from 6,500 feet to peaks of 13,000 feet. The vegetation at the higher elevations consists mainly of small shrubs, forbs, and grasses; you'll run into small trees as you drop in elevation. A very dry country, the area receives about 40 inches of annual rainfall in the lower elevations.



tions, less at the higher spots. Steep, rocky terrain is the rule, with variations of cinder fields and barren gulches. The entire Mauna Kaa Game Area temperature range goes from well below freezing to about 85 degrees. Expect snow during most of the winter months. (Snow in Hawaii?)

Only one main road leads into the Mauna Kaa Area and it has only two entry points. This 38-mile road is fit only for 4WD off-highway vehicles.

Hawaii's first moulton ram season is scheduled for October, weekends only. The bag limit has been set at one moulton ram per hunter for the season. Only 100 hunters will be selected at the special drawing.

The gamebird season has not been set as of this writing; however, it is expected to be revised and is tentatively scheduled to run from the first Saturday in November through the third Sunday in January.

Wild pigs in hunting units B, D, E, F, G, and I will be open year-round; but while some areas are open daily, others are strictly weekend-only hunts.

Don't forget that it is mandatory for hunters to wear at least a 12-inch square patch of bright orange material on all of the islands.

For additional information contact: Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish & Game, Dept. F, 1179 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

## IDAHO

Idaho has no major changes in its game policies for this season; however, non-residents should take note of the license and tag setup. No limit will be set on the basic \$50 nonresident license, but a quota of 9,500 each has been established for nonresident deer and elk tags. The nonresident elk tags this season are \$100 each and the deer tags are set at \$35 each, in addition to the basic \$50 license fee. Remember that nonresident elk and deer tags are only available at the six regional Fish and Game Department offices situated at Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Garden City, Jerome, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls. These deer tag sales, if they proceed as they have in the past, will be available right up to hunting season. Elk tags, however, usually sell out by the end of August.

Most of Idaho (like so many western states) suffered a cold, hard spring. Fawn populations will probably be down, not to mention what the late season will do to upland gamebird populations. As it is with Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, the weather is a critical hunting factor that often makes the difference between success and failure.

Out-of-state hunters should also bear in mind that no nonresident elk and deer tags are made available strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. This year's hunting forecast sees the best-bet hunting areas to be almost identical to last year's spots:

Big mule bucks should again be ranging in the river drainage systems of the lower Smith River, the Payette, the Boise River, the Salmon River Basins, and the Big Lost River area. Elk areas that should again produce for tag-holding hunters are the upper St. Joe River, all the Idaho Primitive Area, and the River Breaks Primitive area where it's divided by the Salmon River. Guides, outfitters, and hunters as well should get in good physical condition for this steep rugged country.

Upland gamebird shooting should be

fair this season, especially on the Snake River drainage lands between Burley and Twin Falls. You'll find such great game species as Hungarian and Chukar partridge, bobwhite, valley, Gambel's, and mountain quail all in the rolling hills and flatlands.

In the higher elevations and wilderness areas good populations of blue, ruffed, spruce, and sharp-tail grouse should be found. Sage hens should again be plentiful for hunters who know the areas and can concentrate on the spots least vulnerable to hunting pressure. The Lower Snake and Salmon River Breaks still remain unsuitable for those canyon-loving, rock-running chukars. These are plump, beautiful birds and when you flush a covey they only fly a short distance before settling down again, which means you can chase one good-sized covey for miles up the walls of this river canyon country. A word of caution to bird dog owners: These rocky lands are tough on your dog's pads.

The waterfowl scene also remains unchanged with the best possible shooting coming from the Blackfoot Reservoir area in Caribou County east of Pocatello and at Dingle Swamp in the Bear Lake area in the southeastern corner of the state.

Good dove shooting is expected this season and again the best spot to try is in the Boise area and the foothills of Magic Valley.

For more information write: Information Officer, Idaho Fish & Game Dept., Dept. F, 600 South Walnut, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707.

## MONTANA

Big news for out-of-state hunters from Montana: Pending a decision by the State Supreme Court, the law that requires most nonresident big-game hunters to be accompanied (guided) is unenforceable at least for this year. Hunters will have only until Oct. 1 to buy the combination \$151 license, which authorizes fishing and bird hunting in addition to one elk tag and two deer tags.

Limits on deer will be a lot more restrictive than they have been for the last several years. Fewer deer-only licenses will be issued, and they will be available only in eastern Montana.

Special restrictions regulate grizzly bear hunting, which will be limited to a few northwestern districts. The grizzly season will close on 48-hour notice when the count reaches twenty-five grizzlies, regardless of whether they are taken by hunters, predator controls, or accidents.

Statewide, Montana was burdened by a bad spring (who wasn't?), and the extreme wet, deep snows, especially in the eastern

sections of the state, will likely have an adverse effect on all game production. Otherwise Montana's general hotspot hunting outlook has changed little from last year.

The best antelope ranges are still in the eastern two-thirds of the state with strict closures still on in Glacier National Park, Big Horn, and other Indian areas.

Montana's major antelope habitat remains in the southeastern portion of the state from Fort Pack Reservoir and the Musselshell River east to the Dakota border. The Yellowstone River cuts the heart of the antelope country from Billings east to Sidney. Past pressure on small herds makes it impossible to pinpoint any one particular area.

The two major sheep ranges are still along the Teton River between Clark and Augusta with the bigger range being in the uppermost northwestern tip of the state in the Kootenai National Forest near Libby. Particularly good spots are the Purcell Mountains, Cabinet Mountains, and Upper Bitterroot Range.

Elk season looks promising and the herds' major range is from Highway 89 west to the Idaho border.

Whitetail deer populations in the river bottomlands in the far northwestern sections of the state look good, but the mule deer outlook is below par statewide.

Remember, as it was last year, if you have killed a moose, a mountain goat, or a bighorn sheep in Montana, you are not eligible to apply for the same permit in any district for the next seven years.

Montana still offers some of the best black bear hunting. The prime areas are in the far western sections of the state where black bear populations are the most concentrated.

Sage grouse hunting should be ideal in the eastern half of the state, with the exceptions of Beaverhead and Madison counties.

For more hunting information write: Information and Education, Fish and Game Dept., Dept. F, Helena, Montana 59601.

## NEVADA

The Fish and Game Commission has set Nevada's big-game policy for 1975 and has established this year's theme: "Hunter Control for the Benefit of the Wildlife Resource." The theme headlines a story of lower license quotas and higher hunting fees.

Nevada's 1975 deer season statewide begins on Oct. 18 and closes Nov. 2, with portions of Northern Washoe, Humboldt, and western Elko counties scheduled as total quota areas for all hunters. Out-of-state hunters will feel the pinch the hardest







as the normal allotment of 4,000 participation tags for nonresidents has been cut this year to 3,056 tags. Resident hunters will have only 3,337 buck tags and 999 antlerless tags while the nonresident buck-only tags are set at 226 in the total quota hunting areas. All special hunt, antlerless quota, and post-season antlerless tags are being issued first-come, first-served since July 19 at the Reno office of the Nevada D.F.G.

Archery season is scheduled for Aug. 23-Sept. 21, but here's an important change: Archers this year will not be able to swap their unused archery tag for a rifle tag. If you're selected for an archery hunt, you're all through, even if you don't fill the freezer with venison.

Residents this year may apply for one of 200 antelope tags. Pronghorn bucks with horns longer than their ears will be the only huntable antelope during the season set for July 26-Aug. 17. Again this year the best antelope areas probably will be north of Pyramid Lake to the Sheldon National Antelope Refuge.

Twelve bighorn sheep hunts will take place this year in thirteen areas of southern Nevada for forty-nine residents and five nonresidents. The dates are Nov. 15-Dec. 14 with a special hunt on the Bombing Range Dec. 13-Dec. 27. Only male trophy rams, either seven years of age or older, or with a Boone and Crockett score of 144 points, may be taken. (Ever try to measure a live ram?) If you received a special permit from 1970 on, whether you were successful or not, you are not eligible to apply again this year for sheep.

Mt. Charleston lost its special elk hunt this year, but the names of ten Nevada residents will be drawn for a special elk hunt in Area 11 of White Pine County scheduled for Dec. 6-Dec. 21.

The cougar (mountain lion) is still classified as a big-game animal in Nevada and all areas of the state are open to lion hunters from Oct. 1-Mar. 31. You'll need a special lion tag and you're allowed one lion all year.

Fees this year will be as follows: Non-resident hunting license-\$40; sub guide license-\$100; master guide license-\$200. Big-game tags for nonresidents are: Bighorn sheep-\$250; lion-\$100; alien deer-\$50; alien deer (archery)-\$10.

Fees for Nevada residents are: Deer-\$5;

antelope-\$25; elk-\$25; bighorn sheep-\$50; lion-\$10; master guide resident-\$100; sub guide-\$50. This is the result of Nevada's first major license increase in several years.

Chukars remain the top upland gamebird in Nevada with the same counties as last year producing the best results. Some suggested chukar spots are the King's River drainage to Fort McDermitt and the Santa Rosa Range, both in Humboldt County, Silver Peak Range in Esmeralda County, Austin Summit to Bunker Hill in Lander County, and the Simpson Park Mountains at the Lander and Eureka county borders. Also good are Tobin and Sonoma ranges in Pershing and Humboldt counties, the north fork of the Humboldt River, the Beaver Creek areas of Elko County, and the northwestern edge of the Humboldt National Forest Lands in Eiko County.

Most nonresident hunters should check the new regulations concerning upland gamebirds (not available at this writing). Most hunts are reserved for resident hunters only.

If you plan to start your son or daughter hunting in Nevada don't forget that anyone under 21 years of age must pass the state hunter safety course before they can receive a license. For further information on hunting write: Information Officer, Dept. of Fish & Game, Dept. F, P.O. Box 10678, Reno, Nev. 89510.

## NEW MEXICO

Very limited, but highly interesting special hunts are again part of New Mexico's continuing efforts to propagate some exotic animals. The two special hunts this year are for the African oryx, and in the Florida Mountains in the southwestern portion of the state for the rare Persian ibex ram. Hunters will be determined by silhouette drawings—only five permits were allotted to oryx hunters last year.

For the 1975 big-game season, the New Mexico Game Department has developed a system called "stratified hunting," which is being employed this year in an effort to ease hunting pressure. The season is broken up into three parts: Nov. 8 and 9; 11-16; and 15-23. A hunter can operate in any part of the state he wishes, but he can hunt during only one of the three time periods. The rule applies to residents and nonresidents alike.

There is a tremendous amount of good hunting potential in the uppermost northeastern corner of New Mexico east of the Carson and Santa Fe National Forest Lands to the Colorado/Oklahoma/Texas borders. But a problem for hunters is that the majority of these lands are privately owned. Many courteous hunters, however, have obtained permission from landowners to hunt in this area. From Las Vegas to Raton and east to the Kiowa National Grasslands along highways 56, 64, and 25 a lot of good habitat exists to support a sizeable population of elk, deer, and antelope. A congenial approach might just get you in on some fabulous hunting country.

Other good elk, deer, and antelope ranges, which include some bear, are in the western sections of Carson and Santa Fe National Forest Lands from the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation east to Highway 285. Highway 85 cuts through the heart of some of the better hunting country in the area.

Jumping over to the southeastern New Mexico drylands you'll find excellent country for quail and antelope. Everything is good east of the Pecos River from Carlsbad north to Tucumcari and east to the Texas border. Limited elk hunting will again take place on the Gila and Apache National Forest Lands north of Silver City. This is also a prime area for deer and especially for turkey. The primary access to this land is State Highway 180 out of Silver City with highways 12, 32, and 78 east providing secondary access. Another prime spot for turkey and deer should be the Cibola National Forest Lands, southwest of State Highway 40 between Gallup and Grants. A finger shoot of Highway 412 and the southern route of Highway 53 provide the only primary access roads to Cibola National Forest Lands.

More to the southcentral part of the state, the two prime deer areas are in Lincoln National Forest and the Mesquero Apache Indian Reservation. In addition to deer, the reservation is reported to have good numbers of bear and turkey.

Out of Malrosa you'll find good populations of quail and prairie chicken. Sandhill crane shooting (limited) will be best along Highway 70 from Roswell to Clovis.

If you plan to hunt any of the Indian lands, in addition to your regular New Mexico license and tags you must also have proper permits for each of the Indian-controlled areas. You should inquire early to The Jicarilla Apache Tribe, P.O. Box 147, Dulce, N.M. 87538; or the Navajo Tribe, Window Rock, Ariz. 86515; or the Mesquero Apache Tribe, Mesquero, N.M. 88340; or the Zuni Tribe, P.O. Box 338, Zuni, N.M. 87327.

For other hunting information write: Jessa E. Williams, Information and Education, Dept. F, Dept. of Game and Fish, State Capitol, Santa Fe, N.M. 87503.

## OREGON

It seems that Oregon was swarmed by out-of-state hunters last season; that, coupled with this year's hard winter and late wintry spring, has made animal populations so low that game management people were terribly squeamish about releasing any hunting information at all. Almost all hunting will be poor this year, especially for the large game animals.

In response to this situation, the Oregon Wildlife Commission even considered clos-

ing the Silver Lake hunting unit, but that fall through when they realized the closure would only shift some 7,000 hunters into other already hard-pressed areas.

This year no management unit deer seasons will be held, although there will be a number of permit hunts on both sides of the Cascades to reduce agricultural conflicts in some areas.

During the general deer season, which opens Oct. 4, hunters will be permitted to shoot only forked-antler bucks east and west of the Cascades. In Baatys Butte, Steens Mountain, and White Horse units, in the southeastern part of the state, bucks must have at least four points on one side (not including the brow point) to be legal game. A special nine-day high Cascade buck season will run Sept. 13-21 for 3,000 permit holders. It will also be a forked-antler or better hunt with a one deer bag limit.

Bear season will last six months, July 1-Dec. 31, in northeastern Oregon and all areas west of Highway 5. Check with Wildlife Commission officials for changes in bear hunting regulations this year.

It still looks as though the best bear areas will be in the Tillamook State Forest Lands north to the Columbia River. This coastal range produces a lot of bear for the hunters who know bear habits.

Oregon's Roosevelt elk season, Nov. 15-26, allows hunters one bull, which must have antlers longer than its ears. Rocky Mountain elk season opens Nov. 1 or Nov. 6 in various areas. The better elk areas are in the northeastern part of Oregon in the Umatilla, Wallawee-Whitman, and Malheur National Forests.

The upland game picture looks brighter than the state's big-game scene. The best

chukar shooting should again be found all along that Snake River Canyon country on the Oregon/Idaho border from the top of the state all along the Snake River to Oxbow Dam.

Silver gray squirrel hunters will have an extra month added to their season this year, but it's still five squirrels per hunter a day.

The better pheasant hunting will be in the hot dry lands all along Highway 20 west of Vale towards Burns. Another good pheasant area lies between highways 206 and 395 from Pandleton to Arlington at the Columbia River.

Waterfowl hotspots will be at Harney and Malheur Lakes just south of Burns and, of course, the Upper Klamath Lake along Highway 97 out of Klamath Falls.

Oregon's sage grouse populations are primarily concentrated in the desert country that makes up the southeastern corner of the state. A lot of good sage grouse habitat borders some access roads between Highway 95 and the eastern edge of the Hart Mountain antelope range.

For further hunting information contact: Information Division, State Wildlife Commission, Dept. F, P.O. Box 3503, Portland, Ore. 97208.

## UTAH

■ A new regulation this year requires all big-game hunters to wear a total of at least 400 square inches of fluorescent orange on their head, chest and back.

Utah's deer season will again be mostly for bucks only, complemented by a higher number of either-sex permits in more units across the state than last year. Big game wintered well this year and you'll find the

animals at much lower elevations because of late storms. Utah's deer populations have been coming back well after a low level of productivity two years ago.

Upland game suffered a real setback this year when a freakish storm hit the central part of the state early in May. The heavy wet snowfall drove the upland gamebirds to the highways, which were about the only spots not blanketed by snow. Consequently, hundreds of gamebirds were slaughtered by motorists who could not avoid them. The storm hurt doves especially.

On the big game scene the two primary elk areas to watch this season will be the Manti-La Sal National Forest from the 8,000-ft. level of Fish Lake due north along the Wasatch Plateau to the border of highways 50 and 89 at Springville. (This is good deer country, too.) The other elk range that should produce is in the northeastern corner of the state in both the Wasatch National Forest area and in Ashley Forest all the way from Heber City east to Vernal and north to the Wyoming/Utah border. This is also Utah's only good area for moose.

All of the deer ranges in the central part of the state from the Dixie National Forest Lands near Cedar City north through Salina to Mt. Pleasant look encouraging for this season. The only other deer districts that need mentioning are in the Wasatch National Forest northeast of Ogden and the two Manti-La Sal National Forests in the southeastern corner of the state out of Moab. Moab still is producing some of Utah's biggest bucks.

Good turkey hunting is slated in the Dixie National Forest from Cedar City east to Panguitch and Hatch along Highway 89. This should be an excellent season for forest grouse in the high country northeast of Ogden.

Waterfowl hunting in Utah is primarily along the eastern shores of the Great Salt Lake from Salt Lake City north to Tramon-ton.

Chukar partridge hunting has been on the upswing in recent years and this looks to be another great season. The primary areas for chukars are in the hot dry country south of the Salt Lake Desert to King's Canyon and from the western border of Nevada east to Delta on Highway 50. That chukar range borders the eastern edge of the Wendover Range, the Desert Test Center, and the Dugway Proving Ground. Remember that these are highly restricted areas with no public access—so avoid them.

Generally, Utah's growing season for browse, grasses, and broad-leaved vegetation was set back in the high country, but the heavy moisture accumulations created good summer growths for game animals, making particularly good forage for fawns during their waning time. This will help the does keep in good shape as well. The fawn count will be known when pre-season classification counts are made in September.

For additional information contact: Information Director, Dept. F, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 1596 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116.

## WASHINGTON

■ The Washington State Game Commission has set up this year's seasons and dates almost identical to last year's with the general buck deer and pheasant season be-



ginning on Oct. 11 and the bull elk season starting Nov. 3. Washington's grouse season opens on Sept. 6 and the early chukar opener following on Sept. 13.

Hunters following the game management unit numbering system should pay particular attention this year because Washington has re-numbered the units to conform to the new six-region organization of the Game Department. New unit numbers and names will be used on the unit map and game hunting pamphlet. Hunters should pick up a legal description to assist them when applying for special hunts.

If you'd like to take a crack at a trophy elk in Washington, here's a tip: All of the country bordering the western edge of Mt. Rainier National Park in both Pierce and Lewis counties from about Enumclaw south to Randle is prime for elk, providing you get the kind of weather that drives the big ones down out of the Park. The eastern side of the Park from its border to Ellensburg is the most heavily hunted elk country in the state and this season's elk numbers there will be below par. A spot that depends entirely upon the weather is the Umatilla National Forest Lands in the southeastern corner of the state. Two other elk areas worth mentioning this season are along the coast from about South Bend south to Woodland and inland as far as the eastern slopes of Mount St. Helens in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The top hunting area for Roosevelt elk is the coastal region of Jefferson County above Queets along Highway 101.

An outstanding area this year for those big late-season whitetail deer looks to be Stevens County in the northeastern tip of the state. Highway 395 splits the heart of this whitetail country all along the Colville River from Chewelah through Colville and up to Kettle Falls. East of Kettle Falls between Highways 395 and 97 you'll find some prime mule and whitetail deer country.

The top mule deer country, however, lies in northcentral Washington near the towns of Mazama, Winthrop, and Twisp along the Methow River.

A couple of good-looking spots for black-tail deer are along the Skagit and Sauk rivers between Sedro Woolley and Marblemount. There are a lot of small blacktails near Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands where the hunter success rate has been extremely good.

When the big mule deer and blacktails get together they will cross, producing handsome trophy stock. The Klickitat Game Management Area is famous for these crossbreeds; that's in Klickitat County, north of The Dalles, Oregon.

Washington boasts of having some of the finest waterfowl shooting on the entire Pacific Flyway and there are several locations to watch this coming season. For \$6.50 you can get a permit to hunt pheasants, ducks, and geese on the Yakima Indian Reservation. Another prime spot, especially for geese, is the flatlands between Coulee City and Wilson Creek. Moses Lake is another prime duck area.

If you like river jumpshooting you'll find none better than along the Yakima River from Yakima southeast to Richland. The best waterfowl shooting north of Seattle can be found in the Skagit Game Management Area near Mt. Vernon. Try for geese all along the peninsula near Ilwaco.

Still the hottest shooting for the third straight year is the chukar hunting (rated best in North America) along the Snake River from Clarkston to within 50 river



miles of Pasco. The only other great chukar and quail area is along Highway 97 from about Oreville south along the Okanogan River all the way to Chelan.

Washington looks prime for a great hunting season. For any additional information contact: Dept. of Game, Dept. F, 600 North Capitol Way, Olympia, Wash. 98504.

## WYOMING

■ After three days of meetings earlier this year in Cheyenne, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission approved the 1975 hunting season and quotas that are generally a little more liberal than last year. Available this year will be about 9,600 second antelope licenses that will be sold at half price to hunters who have already purchased their first tag. Also hunters will find about 5,000 more regular antelope licenses available this season, meaning that a total of 64,950 licenses will be sold, 16,000 more than last year's quota. A surprising ease of hunting pressure in certain areas plus rapidly expanding herds brought about this liberalization on antelope.

The Commission also approved an additional 645 special elk permits, bringing the number up to 19,000; and 175 additional licenses will be allotted for moose, upping that state total to 1,885.

For 1975 the quotas on both sheep and Rocky Mountain goat will remain the same as last year's. Big-game season closing dates will not change drastically, but check for the several extensions expected, which were not available at this writing.

The antelope areas this year that are worth watching are primarily in the northwestern sections of the state. Hunting areas 16, 17, and 19 from Highway 16 east to the eastern edge of Campbell County near Gillette should be good. Areas 20, 22, 23, and 24 are also excellent for antelope in Johnson and Campbell counties. District 6 east to Highway 85 and

hunting areas 25, 31, and 33 northeast and southeast of Casper should provide some good pronghorn hunting. The only other areas worth mentioning are the small hunting areas, 9, 10, 11, and 12, from the town of Douglas east to the border.

Elk hunting is mostly focused in the northwestern section of Wyoming along the borders of Yellowstone National Park; but don't forget to check the 1975 elk area maps, paying special attention to all the areas marked in red, which designates wilderness areas where guides are required.

Look to the northeastern corner of Wyoming for the better deer country for this season. Areas 17, 18, 19, and 20 should provide good hunting with Gillette again serving as the core to hundreds of square miles of prime deer area. Also keep your eyes on Crook County and areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 with access from State Highway 90 north and highways 14 and 24.

About 1,000 special moose permits will be given to sportsman again with hunting being limited to the western borders of the state. The best moose areas will probably be the Shoshone, Teton, and Bridger National Forests.

Sage grouse are Wyoming's most abundant and sought-after gamabirds, most heavily concentrated in the western and central part of the state. The better pheasant areas are in the Big Horn Basin between Lovell and Powell.

Look to Torrington and Hawk Springs in the east, and Ocean Lake in central Wyoming for good waterfowl shooting. Ocean Lake usually holds more than 50,000 mallards during December.

Whitetail deer should provide some good sport this year to the hunters working the Black Hills and Big Horn Mountains. The Big Horn Mountains should also be the top bear producer this season.

For additional information you should contact: Game and Fish Dept., Dept. F, Box 1589, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.





**Train Yourself To Retrieve Ducks**





# E

BY DWIGHT R. SCHUH

Even in the densest marshes, any duck hunter without a dog can retrieve more than 90 percent of his ducks. That may be hard to believe, considering that authorities at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Northern California estimate that hunters without dogs lose 40 to 50 percent of the ducks they shoot in refuge marshes, and that losses for all forms of duck hunting nationwide are estimated at more than 25 percent.

Shockingly, this waste is generally accepted as inevitable, as if it were an unfortunate but unavoidable aspect of marsh hunting without a retriever. In fact, one outdoor writer flatly says that if you hunt marshes without a dog, you can expect to lose at least 25 percent of the ducks you shoot. Period.

I've never been fortunate enough to own a retriever, and I used to lose over 25 percent of my ducks. Such a loss was hard to accept, however, and several years ago I began to concentrate not so much on the number of ducks I shot, but on the percentage of ducks I retrieved. During the 1971 season, I kept a hunting record for the first time. That year I shot nearly a hundred ducks in marshes and lost 12 percent; in 1972, for a similar number of ducks, I lost 8 percent. During the 1973 season I bagged seventy-three marsh ducks and lost three. That's a 4 percent loss.

To improve my retrieving rate, I found I needed training in hunting techniques. I studied each situation in which I lost ducks and developed guidelines by which I could avoid similar situations in the future. These guidelines form the basis for my success, and they can help any hunter who laments his duck losses to improve his own retrieving ability.

The first consideration is your combination of gun and ammunition. A hunting experience of two years ago illustrates a couple of important points about this factor.

I'd taken a family friend who'd hunted ducks for years to one of my favorite marshes. Gadwalls and pintails worked our decoys all morning, offering shots of 30 to 40 yards. Shooting 1½ ounces of No. 6 shot in my 12-gauge, I killed and retrieved six birds with seven shots while my companion shot nearly two boxes of shells and crippled and lost one duck.

At first I thought his shooting eye was just rusty, but it became apparent he was flinching so badly he could only have hit a duck by accident. A look at his ammunition showed he was shooting high-brass loads of 1½ ounces of No. 4 shot. With magnums he killed nothing while I killed birds cleanly using target-weight loads. Why?

My ammunition was matched to the hunting situation. His wasn't. Under the circumstances, he gained nothing by using heavy ammunition and lost a great deal.

Tests by a leading arms and ammunition maker have shown that a minimum of four pellets, each delivering at least 2 foot-pounds of energy, is required to insure clean kills on ducks up to the size of a mallard. Any number of pellets or amount of energy over this minimum adds nothing to killing effectiveness. As I'll explain more fully later, marsh shooting necessarily involves shooting ranges of 40 yards or less. My standard 1½-ounce marsh load delivers more than the minimum clean-kill requirement out to 40 yards. Any additional charge weight or (Continued on page 116)

BY ALBERT MITCHELL

# WATER- BOUND BUCKS

Cursing the one that

■ When ducks take to water it's a cliché, but when bucks do the same thing, for most hunters it's the "end of the trail." Listening to New England deer hunting yarns for 30-odd years has taught me to anticipate one of the common endings, which goes something like this: "... and then his tracks disappeared into Nonesuch Stream and I lost the biggest buck I ever saw."

Actually, there are several things to



## swam away won't get you venison . . . but here's what will

do when a buck takes to water besides going back to camp with a sad story to mix with your bourbon and branch. Anyone seeking deer, whether it is with rifle, bow, or camera, should learn what can be done in this situation, because using water to evade pursuit is one of the basics in every whitetail's bag of tricks. Deer living in proximity to man have more experience with dogs and hunters and are especially prone to head for the nearest water, whether it is a tiny brook or a major lake. Although the odds are against you the moment your quarry enters water, the situation is not hopeless.

Many hunters know that a wounded deer that seeks water will usually remain there or in the brush along the shore until driven out. This means that a still hunt along the brook, stream, river, or lake shore should be made until the animal is seen or jumped, because wounded whitetail rarely travel far in water. The problem for most of us is the healthy buck who knows he is being followed.

What has to be done in order to track a water-bound buck depends upon the size of the body of water into which he leads you. It is a matter of judgment that has to be made in the field, but in general, the hunter reacts differently when faced with the following situations: small streams and brooks, large streams and rivers, and ponds and lakes.

The problem of a track that ends in a brook or small stream is the easiest to solve, but it requires some time and skill. I start upstream mostly because a wounded deer almost always goes downstream and it seems to me that a healthy one should head the other way. Whether you start upstream or down you will be right about half of the time.

Staying about 20 feet from the water, I take a good look at wet shore banks, overturned rocks, broken branches, and a glance under every small evergreen. Whitetail have been known to jump directly onto

small evergreens, which spring back into shape, thus hiding the track.

With enough snow present for good tracking you should soon come to a place where snow or snow-covered brush blankets the stream for a distance, making it impossible for the deer to slip away without leaving sign. Cross over the brook and scout the opposite bank in a like manner until you come to a similar barrier downstream from the point where the tracks entered the water. Cross back over the stream and return to the point of origin. If you did not locate the track, repeat the process staying about 50 feet from the water. Don't expect to win them all. Sometimes it is far better to say, "He got me that time" and go find a new track.

I should have found another track a number of years ago when hunting along the banks of Mitchell Brook in Temple, Maine, but I got stubborn about being tricked by a buck in a brook next to my family's land. After all, the Mitchells have been here since 1803, a time when this part of Maine was still caribou country, and to be fooled by a newcomer to these parts didn't set well. I followed the procedure outlined previously with an additional circuit out 75 feet from the brook—all to no avail. There was no fresh track leading out of that brook, only the one leading in. At that point it seemed apparent to me that Melvin, my great-grandfather and the first man to shoot a Temple whitetail after the caribou left in the late 1800s, would not be proud of my tracking ability.

After giving some thought to the unheard-of possibility of a deer walking backward out of the water, it dawned on me that if I could not find a fresh track, then the deer must have used an old one. I inspected half a dozen well frozen tracks before finding the right one. It had been made several days before in wet snow, and had become frozen. Only faint scratches indicated that

my buck had stepped precisely in the frozen track for about 100 feet from the water's edge into a spruce thicket. My standing with Melvin was restored, but by that time the short November day was gone and I had to leave the track. That buck (which probably died of old age) taught me to check *everything* on the first trip along the stream.

A buck coming to a large stream or river is far less likely to go very far upstream or down and is almost certain to cross over to the other shore once he enters the water. I suspect the reason for this is the lack of cover near large streams and rivers. Not wanting to remain unconcealed any longer than necessary, the deer, when it does decide to cross, does so with reasonable haste. The exit track is likely to be found downstream at an angle to the point of entry, especially if there is any current or if the water is deep enough to require swimming.

The solution to the problem is to find a way to cross over without getting wet; this is very important if it is a cold day. No buck is worth risking a day in the field in boots and pants soaked with ice water, especially if the temperature is anywhere near freezing. However, even fairly large streams can be crossed at the head of rips with ordinary rubber boots or the leather-topped, rubber-bottomed hunting shoes. If a fallen tree, stepping stone rocks, or some other bridge does not present itself, I check the depth and step across quickly.

If you cross on ice take the time to locate or cut a pole long enough and strong enough to hang across the hole you make in the ice if you do go through. If none is available it is far better to let the deer go than to risk your health or your life.

Once on the far shore the procedure to locate the track is a series of traverses staying first 20, then 50, and then 75 feet from the water. Your search for the track can be reduced (*Continued on page 150*)

Lying like scattered jewels along the Delmarva Peninsula—the spit of land that makes up the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay—are dozens of bass ponds and brackish tidalwater bass rivers. But like jewels that are not yet polished, these are diamonds in the rough—often ignored, often untouched.

As outdoor editor of the *Washington Post*, I see the weekly field reports of fishing conditions sent to writers throughout the state by the Maryland Fish and Wildlife Administration. In these reports, it is amazing how often the coverage from this part of the state indicates “no fishing pressure” or “little fishing pressure”—most anglers are saltwater fishing . . .

It is true that the Chesapeake Bay offers good saltwater fishing—fabulous at certain times of the year—but for the bass devotee, ignoring these ponds and tidal rivers is akin to ignoring the strawberries on a strawberry shortcake.

Once while filling up my gas tank in Easton, the attendant noticed the fishing tackle in the back of my wagon and started talking Eastern Shore bassing. “Which do you think are better,” he asked, “the big reservoirs around Baltimore and Washington or the Eastern Shore ponds?”

I had to think a minute. The several-thousand-acre reservoirs such as Loch Raven, Liberty, Pretty Boy, Tridelpia, and Rocky Gorge get all the publicity, attract all the big bass experts, and seem—at least to the uninformed—to have the only worthwhile largemouth bass fishing in the state.

But the Eastern Shore ponds and rivers spell largemouth bass fishing also, fishing that does not require the specialized bass boats, the electric motors and batch of batteries that are the only form of motorized craft allowed on the water-supply lakes. Depth finders, electronic thermometers, deep diving lures, stiff pool-cue bass rods, and contour maps of the bottom—necessities of reservoir fishing—are also not needed on the Eastern Shore.

Bass fishing on the Eastern Shore used to be widely known as excellent, but then it suffered a decline some years ago. Some anglers blamed the Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission—the forerunner of the present Maryland Fish and Wildlife Administration.

Whether or not it was justified in the light of fisheries management theory at the time is even today a matter of conjecture. Basically, the

Department employed part of a theory of Dr. George W. Bennett, Illinois fisheries biologist, who advocated rejuvenating small lakes and ponds every five years by draining them and restocking. The theory was that, at that point, ponds reached their peak as far as size and populations of desirable species, and then began to deteriorate. Ponds were drained and restocked to prevent this deterioration—real and imagined—from taking place. But for the angler from Washington, Baltimore, or Philadelphia, who would drive some distance to find his favorite pond drained, muddy, and unfishable, the theory was less than popular.

Then three or four years ago, according to present Chief of Fisheries Bob Rubelmann, this technique was abandoned. Since then, the Maryland Fish and Wildlife Administration has not drained any ponds on a regular basis and has drained them at all only as a last resort.

Instead, they now maintain a tighter control of the species (with an eye to maintaining proper predator-prey balance) and keep the ponds in good condition long past the theoretical five-year peak.

A close watch of the ponds is still necessary, however, to maintain this proper balance, both for the pleasure of the fisherman and the well-being of the pond species. Techniques are used to “adjust” that delicate predator-prey ratio without the severity of draining the pond. For example, Rubelmann explains that sometimes the ponds are stocked with additional predator or game species such as bass and pickerel. If, for example, a pond gets too high a population of bluegills. This has been done on three of the state-owned ponds: Wye Mills, Unicorn, and Urieville.

Another technique used by the biologists is to knock back the populations of bluegills by selective poisoning along the shoreline with rotenone. This is done during the summer months when the bluegills are found close to the shore and it has little effect on bass populations.

Drawdowns of the lakes are still occasionally done, but only in the winter when fishing is nonexistent or minimal and then only to preserve and enhance the sport fishing. Rubelmann explained that by reducing the ponds to half of their normal volume, the fish become concentrated, allowing the bigger predators to catch the smaller fish and put on more weight during the winter months than would normally be possible. This concentrating tech- (Continued on page 146)

# BASS, BASS AND MORE BASS

BY C. BOYD PFEIFFER

Introducing the  
Delmarva Peninsula,  
where the lunkers  
grow fat and  
the fishing is easy







# Hunting the Hard Country

It's been said that everything grows bigger in Texas, and there's not much to argue about in that statement if you've ever hunted the Big Bend Country west of San Antonio.

For the good Lord not only made everything big, he made it rough, tough, hard, prickly, sharp, hot, cold, wet, dry, and full of things that bite, sting, stab, gouge, and hang on till the last minute. But most of all, he made it beautiful.

He made it beautiful in a way only someone who truly loves the outdoors and space could appreciate. And after he made it, some say, he didn't tell anybody about it for a long time except those who love to hunt. Because he knew nobody would ever really appreciate it as much as those Indians, Mexicans, and early Texans who stalked the whitetail deer and the javelina, the waterfowl, the doves, the quail, and the wild turkey in the jillions of acres of mesquite on both sides of the twisting, brown river. The Rio Grande enters Texas about 300 miles to the northwest at El Paso and finally spews its silt into the Gulf of Mexico at Brownsville, another 300 miles or so to the southeast, and is the international boundary between the U.S. and Mexico.

But the land doesn't know this and therefore doesn't change at all on either side of the huge meandering river. The almost impenetrable mesquite which stretches from horizon to horizon is gashed every few miles by roads cut through the red clay soil. The roads connect towns with names dating to when a handful of Texans made a heroic but hopeless defense against Gen. Santa Anna's armies in 1836—towns with names like Yancy, Dilley, Big Wells,

Carrizo Springs, Crystal City, La Pryor, Del Rio, Leakey, and Laredo.

The dusty trails also connected those same towns six weeks later when aroused and angry Texans, remembering the sacrifice at the place named after the cottonwood tree, the Alamo, defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto. Those towns are connected today by paved roads, as are scores of others with historic names that conjure up the early days of the great West, such as Langtry, where the legendary Judge Roy Bean dispensed his law west of the Pecos in a saloon built in honor of the Jersey Lily.

But it is the hunter and the fisherman who have learned to love this land—even more so today as "civilization" and "progress" move the developers ever farther West. The earth mover and the bulldozer raise clouds of red dust over the brush country, but it will be many a decade before the developer makes much of a dent in the big thicket. And in the meantime the mourning dove and the whitewing skim over the ranch tanks and the clumps of Joshua trees and the javelina feed on the yucca and prickly pear. The hunters with the welded tubing towers built up on jeeps and pickups will cruise the ranch roads on their way to the deer camps each fall and the riflemen in the high deer towers dotting the rolling country will continue to scan the vast land for that elusive 10-point buck that slips through the mesquite at dawn and dusk. It will be many a year before the deer hunter stops using discarded antlers to "rattle up" bucks ready to do battle in the rut and many a year more before the whistling flights of pintails, mallards, gadwalls, greenwing, bluewing, and cinnamon *(Continued on page 78)*

BY JACK SAMSON, EDITOR

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Texas' Big Bend  
has a way of  
making everything  
else seem  
plain unimportant

**K**eouck! The anxious, almost pleading, call came in loud and clear through the thin November air.

*Keouck, kee, kee!*

There it was again. *Tom must be in business*, I thought.

And then again, *kee, kee, and* getting closer. "Tom shouldn't be moving around like that," I mumbled to myself. Then it hit me. A turkey was heading my way!

I kicked myself for not having built a blind. Too late now. I flattened myself against the big oak I was using for a back rest, hoping it would break up my outline.

*Kee, kee, keouck.* That bird was anxious to rejoin the flock.

Tom Rodgers and I were on a fall turkey hunt in the George Washington National Forest in western Virginia—guests of the Cosner family. Tom is president of the National Wild Turkey Federation. He hunts both the spring and fall seasons, and was eager to sell me on the virtues of autumn for the majestic birds of the forests. Like so many newcomers to the sport I had learned my turkey hunting in the spring, never giving much thought to the fall season. This worried Tom.

Weeks earlier he had called me from his South Carolina home and we planned a hunt for the first week of the Virginia season. The 1973 opening was set for the second week in November, a week in advance of the deer season. This would give the turkey hunters a chance to work their prize turkey dogs—yes, dogs—before the whitetail hunters moved in and disturbed the flocks.

"The Cosners have a cabin in the mountains, and they hunt the first week every fall," he said. "They want us to join them this year."

The family had assembled and was out scouting when we arrived at their comfortable hunting camp on

Walker Mountain in Bath County late Sunday afternoon.

One by one they drifted in.

J. A. Sr., 78, has been hunting turkeys for over fifty years. His early years were spent in the Piedmont Region of the state, for over a century the choice turkey country in Virginia. His sons, J. A., Jr. and Hugh, had inherited their father's zest for the sport. Both are veteran hunters. Conway, Hugh's son, is only 20 and still in college, but already an experienced turkey hunter. Hugh's wife, Tuxie, rounded out the family hunting party.

Fall turkey hunting in the Old Dominion is steeped in tradition, the sport of dedicated men, long on experience and a bit short on patience with the new breed of hunters who take their birds in the spring. Success demands dedication.

Here, the turkey dog is the key to fall hunting. Good ones are hard to come by. According to Tom, there are probably fewer than 100 in the country.

By nature the turkey dog should be aggressive and big-going. Good ones bark when they flush birds. Hugh explained that this alerts the hunter so he can get ready for a possible wingshot. Hugh owns two dogs. One, a big Lab, is tops at locating birds, but unfortunately, he doesn't sound off.

Traditionally, the pointing breeds have been trained as turkey dogs. Most are English setters or pointers, but the pointing instinct must be suppressed. The mission of the dog is to pick up the trail of the birds, locate the flock, and then race into it, scattering the birds in all directions. This done, his work is limited to waiting in the blind with his master and running down possible cripples. Fall turkey hunters lose very few birds.

Tom advises the prospective turkey dog owner to locate a pup that barks instinctively. With good raw

material, training is reduced to teaching the dog to locate and flush the birds. The dog must also be blind broken, and this can sometimes be tough. Tom uses tame turkeys for training purposes, working with a new dog for approximately a year. He buys the tame birds for about \$10.

Breaking the dog to wait quietly in a blind while the hunter calls up the birds requires a good deal of patience.

"A dog needs about six years to develop to its peak," says Tom, "but the finished product is an animal that few possess, and few will ever forget."

Turkey hunting in the Old Dominion is as old as the Nation. The history of the sport is a lively story of fall hunting and the turkey dog. Even the Indians owned turkey dogs.

For many decades by far the best turkey hunting in Virginia was found in the Piedmont Region, a vast expanse of heavily forested, rolling hills that stretched from the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the flat Coastal Plain. It was here that J. A. Cosner acquired the hunting lore that is being passed on to his sons.

Most of the old turkey country is made up of privately owned land, and it was subjected to heavy logging operations in the years following World War II. The death of the mature hardwood stands spelled doom for the big birds of the forests. They thrive best in mature forests where good visibility permits the maximum use of the sharp eyes they depend upon for protection.

In the '50s the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries took a long, hard look at turkey hunting in the state. The picture was not good. Strong measures were indicated if the ancient sport was to survive.

Because *(Continued on page 138)*

# Turkey Dogs And





# Fall Hunting

BY BOB GOOCH

*A good turkey dog is rare, bold, and patient. He must be willing to scatter a flock by plunging in, and then wait motionless while the hunter calls the birds back toward the blind*

TURKEY PHOTO BY LARRY DABLEMONT

# Bluefish

# Cornucopia

BY TOM KELLEY, JR



**A**t 3:45 A.M. we arrived at the *Mijoy* dock on the Waterford side of Connecticut's Niantic River. We were out for a day of bluefishing at a fabulous place known as "The Race." My sons Bill and Dave, and Dave's friend, Stewart Bizz, had joined me to try for the bluefish of this locally legendary area.

Early as we were, others had gotten to the party boat earlier than us. The stern and part of the portside already bristled with rods set up at the rail; we found spaces up

toward the bow on the portside.

For some years I had heard tales of fabulous bluefish action to be found at "The Race" through September and October. Knowing the tendency of anglers to exaggerate, I discounted most of what I heard. Anyway, we had some fabulous bluefishing of our own in New Jersey waters. Such places as "The Klondike," "The Big Stain," "Monster Ledge," and "Barnegat Ridge" were all handy. The method used at those Jersey waters was chumming to attract the fish, and the rig on

the end of your line was nothing more than a baited hook. That put little weight between fish and fisherman. I had heard, however, that they used 14-ounce diamond jigs at "The Race" and was not much impressed. How can a fish give a good account of himself with 14 ounces of treble hook chrome stuck into his jaw?

Then in September of 1971 I stumbled on "The Race" quite by accident. I had gone to Niantic to interview my long-time friend Captain Ernie Schiller about his use of a plane to locate schools of bluefish out in the bay. He assured me the story was true. At the moment, however, there was no need to fly, he related, because the big blues were socked in solid at "The Race," and would stay there at least until the end of October when they would leave for winter quarters.

Ernie suggested I make an afternoon trip to "The Race," and he would fly over so I could get pictures of him in action. Of course I agreed, but I still had no thought of "The Race" as a place to fire the soul of a fisherman.

I was wrong! The tales I had been told about the size and number of bluefish you could take at "The Race" were true. I saw one experienced angler in the corner of the stern with methodical application of talent and muscle bring in a total of twenty-two fish to fill two burlap bags.

On that afternoon photography trip I was up on the top deck near the wheelhouse with a flock of cameras when we arrived at the head of "The Race." Captain Brockett called to me and pointed straight up. There came Ernie slicing in like a dive bomber. He made half a dozen passes doing everything but lay an egg on the deck. Using different cameras with different film



## A unique remnant of the Ice Age provides fantastic action for both rod and camera

"The Race." Beneath the surface of the water "The Race" is so sharply defined that strikes stop immediately when the end of it is reached. Then the boat must make an off-side run up to the head to do it all over again; it keeps the skipper constantly on his toes.

This period of nonfishing time permits the anglers to prepare for the next joyride. They grab a sandwich, take pictures, gloat over their catch, and make ready more freshly baited hooks. They do sometimes use 14-ounce diamond jigs, but these are expensive and easily lost when their treble hooks foul the bottom or sides of the gorge that is "The Race." Here they have developed a deadly substitute, which is equally effective and less likely to be lost.

While the boat rides the faster-moving surface water, the fish are down deep in slightly slower water, which means all lines must be trailed from the "uphill" side of the boat. To take a bait down quickly to where the fish are requires a heavy sinker and a rapidly paid-out line. It becomes a matter of good judgment to know when to stop letting out line so it will be down far enough but still high enough not to snag. A strike is almost instant then, and it behooves the angler to hoarse his fish up fast in order to keep it from fouling his line with others.

The terminal gear most often used consists of a 14-ounce egg-shaped drail-type sinker attached to the end of your line, which is usually 40-pound-test monofilament. On the business end of the sinker is a snaffle-hook swivel. The bait used is 5- or 6-inch-long frozen herring. A regular 8/0 codfish hook is attached to one end of a 10-inch piece of bright new sashcord chain. This chain is threaded through the bait so it comes out the mouth with the hook buried (*Continued on page 100*)

and different lenses, I shot picture after picture and then Ernie was gone. My job was done. I turned to see how the fishing was going at "The Race."

I became so enthralled I forgot to shoot pictures: I had never imagined any fishing scene could be so utterly mad as this. Everywhere I looked there was frantic action of one sort or another. Captain Brockett's *Mijoy* was having its share of action, but the *Mijoy* was only one boat in the midst of a hundred others of every kind and size. And there were gulls by the thousand—screaming, wheeling, diving gulls.

In the wheelhouse Captain Brockett had his hands full controlling the boat, keeping it lined up with the gorge under him, keeping clear of other boats operated by seemingly suicidal maniacs, and watching his recording instruments telling him what the condition of things under the boat happened to be. Down on deck, the two mates, Jerry and John, scurried like rabbits to gaff fish, untangle lines or repair broken terminal gear. People were swearing, shouting, praying, squealing with glee, or moaning over a lost fish or tangled lines. I found there was a certain pattern to it all, which repeated itself over and over.

To understand this excitement, you must know something about "The Race," what it is, and why it can create this kind of madhouse action that goes on here every year through the months of September and October. "The Race," itself, is a rather narrow strip of water midway between Fishers and Little Gull Islands, at the extreme eastern end of Long Island Sound. The distance between the two islands is roughly five miles; a half-mile-wide strip in the middle of this area, less than two miles long, is "The Race."

Twice each day, when the tide goes out, the waters of Long Island Sound pour out in a cascade through "The Race" like a down escalator. The head is visibly higher, and the fast-flowing water carries boats of every size like a kid sliding down a snowbank in an old dishpan. Small fishes of many kinds, which have spent their summer in nature's nursery that is Long Island Sound, are tumbled out to join others of their own kind in the sea. And twice each day, when the tide rises, many are tumbled back in to do it all over again. The ever glutinous blues take toll of them coming and going.

It takes only ten to fifteen minutes for a boat to drift the length of









# ABOUT Caribou HUNTING...

BY TOM BRAKEFIELD



*To the caribou, home is the desolate Far North*

**T**hey're the most spectacularly beautiful big-game animals in North America. Their powerful, slab-sided bodies are predominantly seal gray in color and, at their best, are accented with flowing white manes. But their real glory, the thing that sets them apart, is their astonishingly large antlers, which come in a bewildering variety of "standard" shapes. No other antlered animal exhibits such variety among its typical heads, and it is perfectly reasonable for a sportsman to collect several of these heads without duplicating any of them.

Not only do their antlers vary, but they are almost always *big*. Caribou bulls boast the largest antler-to-body ratio of any deer in the world. A big bull, standing 50 to 60 inches at the shoulder, may carry antlers that exceed his shoulder height in main beam length and match or nearly match it in spread.

Caribou are the most graceful of all the large deer, striding along with a bouncing, effortless gait. For this elegant locomotion they depend on circus-clown hooves. The hoof of a 350-pound caribou bull will be about twice as long as that of a bull elk weighing twice as much. These hooves are part of the caribou's adaptation to his far northern environment, allowing him to easily swim large bodies of water and traverse swampy bogs and muskeg.

It's the current fashion among most taxonomists to classify all caribou and reindeer of North America and [\*\(Continued on page 86\)\*](#)



# Tricks That Take Chukars

BY NORM NELSON

**M**y first chukar hunt was conducted from a sleeping bag. It was a sort of remote control affair during a mid-summer family camping trip near Grand Coulee Dam after my wife, children, and I moved to the Pacific Northwest. One of the game and fish goodies in our new homeland that had me particularly interested was the mysterious chukar.

As the lemon chiffon sunrise of the desert lit up the campground, our two oldest boys, then 13 and 15, burst back into the tent after a short excursion outside. My wife and I were still sleepily trying to think of reasons to stay in a warm, double sleeping bag.

Peter, the elder, said, "Hey, Dad, what does a chukar sound like?" Without waiting for an answer, he added, "I think we just heard some up the hill. We're going to run up there to get a look at them, okay?"

At 5:30 A.M., I'm easily talked into uphill exploration, if it's done on someone else's legs. "Great idea," I replied. When the boys' voices had dwindled in the distance, I laughed. At the time, I didn't know very much about that elusive foreign import, the chukar partridge. But I did know that you can't approach them from below. Snuggling back down into the sleeping bag, I told my wife not to worry about breakfast for another hour.

Much later, when eggs were sizzling on the stove, two weary boys came stumbling down the 800-foot, rocky ridge behind camp. Peter made a despondent gesture. "We never saw a bird," he said. "But all the time they were calling just ahead of us. Man, they led us clean up to the top of that hill."

Peter had just learned Lesson Number One in chukar chasing: Don't try it from below the birds. These transplanted Asiatic hill partridge were built by nature for uphill running. They can stay ahead

of you all day that way, never flushing as long as they're going uphill. Many other lessons about how and how not to hunt chukars came to us in the following years.

Little information came from other sportsmen; however, the reactions of our new-found Washington friends should have been a tip-off. Some laughed hollowly, as if remembering pain and trauma. Others merely laughed. One guy actually became agitated.

"Chukars!" he snorted like I'd asked him if he milked cobras for amusement. "Do I look like that much of a fool?"

He brooded for a second, then added: "Listen, when I want to lather myself into a heart attack, I can think of far more interesting ways of doing it than chasing those idiot-birds up and down the scab rock all day."

Transplanted from northern India's mountain country in the 1930s, the chukar became legal game in America only as recently as 1952 when Idaho held the first open season. Today it's established all the way from British Columbia to Texas. But it still perplexes many hunters. Chukars simply haven't been on the game list in most states long enough to have amassed a tradition on how to hunt them, as far as most sportsmen are concerned.

I suspect that huntable chukar populations had built up from initial plantings in many regions years before cautious game departments and legislatures allowed any open seasons. Chukars are ghost game; they're not easy to locate. Flocks roam the countryside a great deal, their movements depending on water and grass conditions plus seasonal and daily weather influences. The vast, bleak uplands of the West can hold and conceal a lot of chukars that aren't readily noticeable. The chukar simply isn't the stay-put bird that the more easily censused ringnecks and

ruffed grouse happen to be.

This is why the chukar is a bird that fools even the experts. Early one fall, I hunted with a game biologist, Dick Parker, in the great chukar country near the middle Snake River. Despite his broad knowledge of the birds, we had poor hunting in different areas with varying types of cover. We had good shooting on Hungarian partridge in the plateau-top grain-field edges but bagged only a random chukar here and there.

The reason? Unseasonal late summer rains had greened up the vast Palouse country of southeastern Washington. Liberated from their dependence on the usual creeks and rivers for a daily water ration, the chukar population had scattered far and wide. And, as I said, the West is a big country that can swallow and hide a lot of chukars. It's a far cry from keeping track of the ruffed grouse population, which is confined to 80 or so acres of New England woodlot.

Knowing a few basics about chukar habits can save the day. Late one fall, I stopped at a small rural store near the Columbia River to get some information on local chukar hunting. The lady storekeeper shook her head. "Chukar hunting's been awful," she said dolefully. "Even after we get snow, the birds didn't come down from the high country."

Even that negative information helped. Back in the car, I told my two hunting companions, "There hasn't been much snow. I think the birds will still be in rimrock country. There's bound to be enough snow-melt puddles so they won't be bunched down near the Columbia. And on a sunny afternoon like this, I bet they're on west-facing rock outcrops, getting some sun."

That turned out to be an accurate prognosis. We had to walk and work a lot for them, but we did get several birds in just such places. More than once (Continued on page 130)

# The Later The Bigger

BY ANGUS CAMERON

When the  
Alaskan mercury  
drops, the  
giant lake trout  
start to rise

■ Although I could not see him I could see the wall of water pushed ahead of his big snout as he steamed along behind the tandem-hooked Gray Ghost streamer. The big lakers of the Brooks Range had obliged; they had come up from the deeps for a fly as the growing chill of Alaska's fall weather made the shallows again congenial. And here was one of them obliging this eager fisherman. The fish sank away from the fly, the water subsided, and even a stripping back of the line to the following fish did not bring him on again.

I was disappointed, for it was the first laker—that is, the first apparently big laker—that had shown himself. With my wife at the tiller of the little 1½-horse outboard, the canoe, flown in earlier between floats of guide Bud Helmericks' plane, was under her by-now practiced guidance, following the edge of one of Walker Lake's many shoals where the clear blue water dropped off suddenly and precipitously from the 2-foot shallow flats that thrust out into the narrow lake's deep, deep waters. There, for the scant weeks of the Arctic summer, the big lunkers lurked in dark depths that plunged down from the steep mountains to a bottom sometimes more than 200 feet below.

A few, very few, anglers had fished for them in this remote lake in the summer months, using copper lines and big spoons. I had done this on other lakes myself but, better, I had tried for lakers in the Brooks Range lakes with the fly rod and streamer fly, and had had to be satisfied with the small lake trout that cruised the mouths of numerous brooks, those smaller fish of 4 to 8 pounds that stayed in shallow water even during the weeks of summer.

Bud and I had trolled for these smaller lakers with both spoons and streamer flies, and had taken them, too. We had also cruised those same brooks' mouths in a canoe watching for the bright skitter of the baitfish as these small lakers pursued them to the surface. A streamer cast into their flashing, silvery midst almost always resulted in the strike.

As much sport as this was, the fact was that we were fishing for small fry as lakers go. The big ones were far below us, battering on the rich harvest of baitfish and adding to their prodigious girths. I vowed that I would someday combine a hunting trip with the pursuit of the big ones on the surface and here we were doing it now. Bud, that master Alaskan guide, bush pilot, and veteran wilderness man, had flown the two of us in, 300 and more miles north of Fairbanks, and 100 air miles north of the Arctic Circle, and had left us at his old trapping cabin. There the two of us, the two of us alone in that vast and still-untouched wilderness, were looking ahead to three weeks of fishing and hunting. The fall was mild in those first two weeks, but we knew that the oncoming chill would bring up the big lakers. We figured we had plenty of time but we were, understandably, full of anticipation and were anxious to try our luck. The first day we had paddled across to a handy shoal area and, putting the little outboard into action, had felt our way around the shoal edges, learning the water and hoping for a big fish.

True, we had a freeze every night or so but during the day the thermometer hung in the 40s and 50s; and often soft, warm, low fogs hung in sometimes-solid cotton balls, sometimes in ghostly wisps in the narrow valley filled by the 20-mile-long lake. The noble Brooks Mountains rose steeply from the shores, offering few beaches save for those near the mouth of a sizeable river that debouched into Walker straight across from our cabin. Their rocky peaks rising above the tundra-like slopes, which in turn lay above the timberline of white spruces, were not snow-clad when we arrived, but within a few days, precipitation that fell as a half-rainy mist on the lake level fell as snow on the peaks. As the days passed the snowline crept down the mountains, even though only spits of snow showers fell at our level and that not enough to accumulate. It was a late fall in the Arctic and soon it became evident that the big lakers were taking their time



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*At left is the author's 20-pounds-plus laker. This fish measured 19 inches around and 32 inches long. Not shown is a released giant that measured 37½ inches in length, and was estimated at more than 30 pounds*

about coming up from the depths.

With all that wilderness to explore, hunt, and fish, we were hard-put to decide how to put in our time. The classically meandering river that came in across the lake from us offered fantastic grayling fishing and the beach from which we were casting for grayling gave promise of the wilderness offerings. The very first beach we cast from showed the beckoning tracks of moose, black bear, grizzly, beaver, mink, wolf, lynx, and wolverine. The flats beyond the end of the lake, sparsely covered with spruce and willows, were as moosey as any area I have ever seen. Hunting this took time. Of course, there was also wood to cut and buck and split, chores to do, meals to cook, and blueberries to pick. So there was none too much time for each of the activities that offered themselves.

But each ([Continued on page 133](#))



# The average Marine Corps recruit has four cavities and size nine feet.

And he's asleep one third of every day.

He's nineteen years old, weighs 153 pounds and stands 5'8" tall.

When he enters boot camp he can do 8 pull-ups, forty-seven sit-ups and run 3 miles in twenty-five and a half minutes. When he finishes training he's increased his strength by a third and his speed by a quarter. And he's had his cavities fixed.

During training he eats three meals a day for a total of 416,000 calories. He usually burns up more than that.

He learns how to take apart and reassemble a rifle in one minute. And he learns how to fire it... well.

His average 14½ neck size usually increases one half inch.

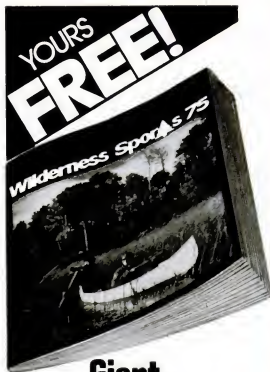
In his eleven weeks of basic training he writes about seventy letters and receives thirty-three.

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FS-1

## TAP'S TIPS BY H. G. TAPPLY



**CALM**, moonless nights are best for bass-bugging. Use a light-colored bug (so you can see it better) and fish it slowly, pop and stop. Avoid boat noises, keep the flashlight off. If the wind blows or the moon is out, you'll probably do better with sinking lures.

Don't change a deer-hair bass bug just because it has soaked up some water. A wet bug settles deeper into the surface and creates more commotion when retrieved than a dry one does. If it gets *too* soggy, squeeze out some of the surplus water.



**WHEN** buying new sunglasses for fishing, remember that many eye doctors recommend either neutral gray or sage-green lenses. Both give good color perception with minimum distortion and admit more light, without discomfort, than darker lenses.



**FOR** best results with plastic worms, try a Central Draft hook. Many expert bass fishermen prefer this style because the worm hangs straight without kinking, and the alignment of point and eyes makes it easier to drive the hook home.



**WHEN** you can't get sandworms or bloodworms for saltwater fishing, try nightcrawlers. Stripers, croakers, and other sea-going fish will take them if the 'crawlers are changed often so they stay fresh and lively.—J. J. Koloski, Alexandria, Va.





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2	410	373
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4	542	498
5	588	540
6	623	574
7	652	602
8	677	624
9	695	641
10	707	651

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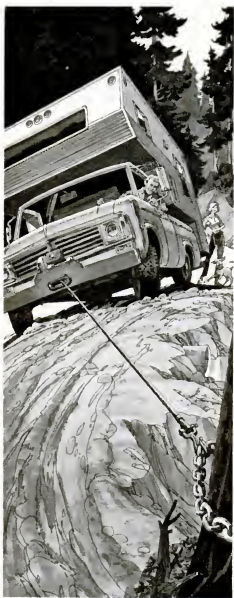


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## Hunting the hard country

(Continued from page 61)

teal cease to make hearts pound as they slant out of the morning and evening sky toward the decoys set in the ranch ponds.

There will be many a shopping center built and paved near the bigger towns and cities, but there are enough coveys of fast-running scaled or blue quail and bursting coveys of bobwhites to keep the average hunter happy for a good many years to come.

Coming out of the heavily-paved East and the cement canyons of Manhattan into West Texas in December is like opening a conning tower after being forced to cruise under the sea in a World War One submarine for ten years. The airport guard at La Guardia, who looked at your gun case as though you were certain to hijack the jet, was replaced at the San Antonio airport by a uniformed security guard who grinned as you retrieved the case.

"Goin' to do a little huntin'?" he asked casually as you handed him the baggage checks. "Weather should be good the next few days. Lots of luck." Resisting the reaction to faint from shock, you heft the case and realize the country has not all gone mad and that hunting is still considered normal in the real world.

On the highway from San Antonio, west toward towns named Hondo and Sabin, there are the rec vehicles and pickups and 4 WDs rolling along the wide highways with gun racks in the rear windows and loaded down with tents, food, and sleeping bags. In the fields fat doves streak over the grain crops, broom corn, and the truck gardens. Harris hawks, sparrow hawks, and rough-legged hawks perch on innumerable telephone poles as the car speeds past.

A COUPLE of hours later the car pulls up at a deer camp—a Christmas deer camp at that—in the brush country, and New York might as well be in India. Someone has decorated a 3-foot-high Christmas tree with tinsel, next to a camping trailer. A long board table is set in the bright sunlight and anyone can dip into a pan of hot chili or cut off a slice of cold venison roast or smoked turkey. Few out here hunt from a ranch house. This 26,000 acres of ranchland is leased by the year for hunting rights and the camp will only be here for a week—maybe two. A couple of house trailers contain hot showers; there are two camp cooks who can work miracles with quail, javelina, venison, duck, or wild turkey, and if that fare runs short, steaks.

And suddenly the worn Levis and the scarred and comfortable hunting boots replace the city clothes. Old friends appear and the laughter and

the chiding takes the place of reserve brought on by urban living. The cold cans of beer are dipped from ice-filled coolers and deep lungfuls of clear air finally displace the remnants of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons coating bronchial tubes unused to such luxury.

Temperatures in the 70s and 80s during days of hard sunlight under cloudless skies drop to well below freezing each night. The mesquite bush was not designed to be kind to man, except in one way: an old, thick mesquite root burns with a hot flame for a very long time. A man can stand against a mesquite fire—turning every so often to keep each side even—for as long as friends want to stay up and talk at night. And long after all have turned in the logs will burn with a steady flame until dawn shows up as a line of pale blue under the blackness of the eastern sky. Except perhaps for the smell of piñon wood, nothing has a finer smell than burning mesquite.

MORNING is a time of coffee—the black brew kept clear with half a dozen egg shells tossed into the huge porcelain pot—and ham and eggs and pancakes, sausages, hot biscuits, and preserves. For the knowledgeable there are strips of canned green chile to cut up and mix with scrambled eggs.

Some of the deer hunters go out before dawn to climb into the elevated blinds while the vast land is still and bathed with darkness and brittle cold. A heavy parka, a hot thermos of coffee, rifle, and binoculars are all that is needed. The shooting time is brief before a guide or ranch hand comes rattling down one of the red dusty roads to pick up the hunter an hour or so after sunrise. The bucks move at dawn and dusk, and only then either to feed or to seek out a herd of does. It is the rutting season and most of the bigger bucks are thick-necked and their antlers glisten from sharpening them on brush or in combat. Shots are long ones in this country—no 50-yard snap shots using rifled slugs fired from shotguns, as in much of the heavily-populated East. One hundred and fifty yards in mesquite country is considered a cinch shot. Most of the smarter and bigger bucks are only brought down by shots of 300 yards or more, and these are made while they are either circling in the brush at a fast pace or running flat-out after scenting danger. A look at the calibers of local hunters' guns gives one the clue: the .30/06 is standard, but there are a lot of .270s, 7mm magnums, .257 magnums, and .243s—long-range, flat-trajectory rifles and all well scoped. Both the successful and unsuccessful deer hunters are back in time to salvage

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some breakfast—and even though the quail coveys beckon—a morning nap feels fine after being awakened at 4 A.M.

HUNTING quail in thicket country is a far cry from the leisurely “mule-and-backboard” tradition of the Old South. Nash Buckingham and Havilah Babcock would cringe beneath the Spanish moss of the old plantations if they could see how the bobwhite is hunted in mesquite, cactus, and yucca country. Pickup trucks and jeeps are rigged with seats for two hunters right over the front bumpers, allowing the shooters to see fairly well in the thick brush, but most important of all, enabling them to bail out in a hurry when a covey is sighted. In addition, a seat is fastened to the top of a derrick of welded pipes over the roof of the pickup cab—or the same distance up over a jeep. Usually two hunters ride topside, standing so as to have a better view. The driver simply handles the vehicle. He has no view to speak of but latter-day Texas hunters have devised a buzzer system, activated by a push-button switch in the tower. When the hunter on top spots a quail covey, he pushes the switch and the buzzer sounds in the cab. At the sound the driver—who has been inching along the rutted trails in low gear—jams on the brakes. Before clambering down from the tower the top gunners point the direction of the covey. The driver and whoever else is riding in the cab, the shooters in the front seats, and both hunters from the tower then dash madly into the mass of mesquite needles, cactus thorns, yucca spines, and razor-sharp rocks in pursuit of the running quail. The fastest runners get the first shots at the flushing birds. If the covey flushes as a unit, it may fly for hundreds of yards before landing and running again, so that will be all the shots the party gets at that particular covey. However, if the birds scatter on the covey rise, then the party can spend some time kicking brush and grass clumps to flush the singles.

The Texas bobwhite is by far the easiest quail to hunt this way. The big scaled or blue quail tend to run much faster, will not flush as easily, and when they do flush, may fly a quarter of a mile before landing again. Leather chaps and sturdy leather boots are needed for this kind of hunting. If not chaps, at least some form of heavy canvas or leather-fronted trousers should be worn as protection against the spikes, thorns, and razor edges. Almost all the shotguns are full-choked, as few hunters get much of anything but a straight going-away shot.

Why not hunt these quail with pointing dogs, asks our gentleman friend from the East or Deep South. Because Texans, suh, are gentlemen too and love their dogs. In addition

to getting them all scratched and torn up in such country, the thicket is a haven for rattlesnakes most of the year.

And so the bright pre-Christmas days are filled with the quest for quail and sleep at night is easy as aching muscles relax after the mad charges through the brush. Talk around the blazing fire is of the fine Tom turkey George Coe got with one shot from a 7mm magnum; the spectacular double on streaking scaled quail Stan Studer made while balancing on one leg halfway over a barbed-wire fence; the symmetrical beauty of a ten-point buck Bob Kuhn dropped in a long-range shot from his tower blind; and the big javelina boar young Jimmie got—the first of his life.

No food tastes like food eaten under a star-studded sky as a cold wind blows the campfire ashes and men talk about other hunts in other times and in other places. No one down through the centuries has cared more about wildlife than has the hunter and the talk is of what the bulldozing of habitat has done to the whitening dove populations below the border, the successes of Ducks Unlimited, the progress of Game Coin and how to raise more funds for education, wildlife management, and conservation. Jim Midcap worries that anti-hunting groups have raised \$14 million and are trying to prove hunting—instead of habitat destruction—is hurting wildlife. Harry Tension, who collects friends, is concerned that school children don't know that the sportsmen of this country are the ones who have protected and paid for the preservation of our wildlife. “Yet each man kills the thing he loves,” Oscar Wilde knew.

And there is talk of today's hunt and of what the hunts will be like tomorrow, of those of us who are here now and of those who have gone on ahead—to where the hunting is always better. The American Indian knew.

No days pass as quickly as the hunting and fishing days, the days with friends. There are several special moments—suspended in the eternity of memory—that will last.

WHILE Bob Halloran and the kid lawyer were stalking a flock of pintails resting on a small ranch pond, Harry and I sat quietly in the seat of a pickup, watching the last rays of the sun slowly change the colors of a low ridge. The only movement was that of a female marsh hawk as she quartered back and forth over the mesquite in a last-hour search for food. Our world stretched from horizon to horizon and there was no sound. Harry shifted in the seat and nodded at the vastness.

“It ain't all bad,” he said and smiled. Nobody but a Texan could describe the brush country that well.

Just before the red orb of the sun rose across a lake one morning there was the whistle of wings as a flock of pintails banded over the blind, spooked at the decoys, and climbed for altitude. The over/under kicked twice and two ducks spun from the flock. The look on John Thompson's face as they pinwheelled from about 60 yards up made all future misses unimportant.

THE eight-point buck was a long time in coming out of the brush. Hours had gone by and the binoculars had grown heavy sweeping the horizon all the way to the distant horizon. Three does and a spike had moved down a draw 150 yards away, heading for water, but that had been more than an hour ago. And suddenly there he was—not more than 250 yards away but moving purposefully through the mesquite. The brush was several feet higher than the tips of his antlers and there was just the flash of him as he moved down from the slope of the ridge to the bottomland, following the general path of the does. The scope was set on 4X and it was necessary to take the moving shot before the buck hit the thick bottom brush. The Colt Sauer .270 finally steadied down, the scope picked up the tan and white of his coat as the buck passed through the series of openings. Over the pounding of the heart the blast shattered the stillness and the “whack” of the 150-grain .270 slug echoed back before the muzzle of the rifle returned to level. The big buck collapsed in a cloud of red dust, kicked twice, and lay still. The scope remained on the still body for several moments more as the echoes of the shot wafted across the miles of brush country.

Just before darkness, with the western sky a profusion of red, yellow, and orange, the coyotes began their evening song. The thin, high-pitched yelps came from the black silhouetted ridge toward the west—as they had for the millions of years the coyote had owned this land.

And beyond that same ridge, and a dozen more like it, the hard land ran on to towns where the lights were being turned on against the darkness sliding over the big thicket ever so slowly from the east, towns like Eagle Pass and Uvalde—home of former Vice President of the United States John Nance Garner. “Cactus Jack,” who grew up in the hard country, lived to his 90s, rocking on the front porch of his board house and spitting tobacco juice into the front yard. Some say the old man never gave a hoot what anybody thought of him and had a sneaking suspicion that everybody in Washington was a damned fool. It's probably no wonder. When you spend 90 years in the Big Bend country, everything else seems kind of small and unimportant.

## “Tricks for Trophy Muleys” in the October Issue of Field & Stream



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**About caribou hunting. . .**

(Continued from page 67)

Eurasia as a single species, *Rangifer tarandus*. However, all caribou are called just that in North America while their Eurasian brethren, whether wild or domesticated, are known as reindeer. Our caribou is a larger, more vigorous, and better-antlered animal than any of the reindeer, though the two will interbreed readily.

Caribou are about the most difficult of all North American big game to classify for hunting purposes since they range from Newfoundland to Alaska and they exhibit great diversity of type within that vast area. An attempt at a too-elegant classification scheme would make matters impossible, but Boone and Crockett determines its four classifications thus: Barren Ground (Alaska, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories); Mountain (British Columbia and Alberta); Woodland (Newfoundland); and Quebec-Labrador (Quebec and Labrador).

Caribou are spectacular trophies but they aren't the canniest animals around. In fact, they generally emerge as rather dull-witted when compared with elk or whitetail. Their attention span is amazingly short. Often they bolt when they get your wind and then forget why they bolted and circle back to check things out all over again. I've had some bulls do this three or four times until they finally either decided I was up to no good or else just forgot all about me and wandered off.

Most caribou, except for some Woodland, are found in mountain country or out on vast open barrens, depending upon the time of year. As a rule, mountain and plains animals are noted for their extraordinarily sharp eyesight. The caribou is an exception to that rule. Having rather dull eyes, they appear to have more limited depth perception than similar large herbivores.

THEIR small ears aren't nearly as sensitive as those of elk or moose and their sense of smell, while reasonably good, doesn't approach that of bear or moose. Caribou often show inordinate curiosity and it is sometimes possible (in the wider parts of their range, anyway) to kneel down and "wave them up" by swinging your arms slowly to and fro with hat in hand.

Nor are they noted for any outstanding vitality when shot, as are goat and elk. Although I've never knocked one right off his feet, as I have with some other rather unlikely animals such as moose and grizzly, I've never had one run over 50 yards after being hit.

So, having said all that, why do they continue to captivate me so? Part of it is their magnificent good looks. Anything that beautiful is not only a prime addition to the trophy



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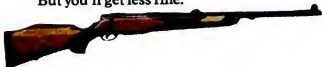
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room, it's also a delight just to observe and study. Their grace and elegance of movement add to this overall attractiveness. When I think of elk and moose, the adjectives "regal" and "powerful" come to mind. With caribou it must be "elegant."

Another attraction is all that antler variety. When you see one goat or pronghorn (and here I'm talking about typical heads, not non-typical or freaks) you've pretty well seen them all. Moose vary a bit in gross size and in the formation of the brow palms. Sheep vary still more in body and horn color as well as horn configuration. But no animal can match the caribou.

Another part of their allure is almost undefinable. They live in such a harsh and unforgiving environment, far from the trappings of man and his civilization, that the sight of a big bull, so wild and free, is unique and never surpassed.

ANOTHER, more practical plus is availability. Three of the four types (Barren Ground, Mountain, and Quebec-Labrador) have very large populations and thus are realistically attainable by almost everyone with the interest. Alas, the same cannot be said for some of our other big-game species.

And finally, the big bulls are usually a reasonably sporting proposition. Most anyone can go out and kill "a" caribou. But, having gone on at some length about how unwary most caribou usually are, I hasten to add that I've never had a really big bull come easy. To locate, stalk, and down a *particular* bull often becomes very sporting indeed!

Though caribou can actually get in your way when you're hunting other game, it seems that as soon as you set out after that one big bull, things never work out that conveniently. I finally waved up and shot my biggest Barren Ground bull at an easy 130 yards. But that was only after five days of chasing that same damnably elusive bull around half a dozen mountains, never being able to get close enough for a shot and always praying fervently that the migrating animal would not move on before I had another chance at him the next day.

Caribou are constantly on the move and a walking animal will quickly outdistance a hard-running man in the mountains. It is amazing how rapidly that leisurely, ground-eating shuffle moves them out of your reach. My biggest Osborn bull forced me into a 3-hour climb that was rougher than 90 percent of my sheep stalks and steep enough to satisfy most confirmed goat hunters. Caribou are often found high in the mountains, well above the sheep and as high as the goats. True, they don't actually traverse or inhabit country as rough as goats do, but *you* may have to in order to intersect them before they move out of range.

Though they are reasonably large animals, caribou are rather easy to

kill, about like a big mule deer in vitality. Though I've shot all of mine with the 7mm magnum (150-grain bullets) and the .270 (130- and 150-grain bullets), that was because I was always after bigger and tougher game as well as caribou. My brother and many other hunters that I know have killed big bulls quite handily with .243s, 6mms, .257 Roberts and the like. The main thing with caribou, as with all other game, is where you hit them rather than what you hit them with.

Now, let's survey the four types recognized by Boone and Crockett. The Barren Ground is the most numerous type with Alaska carrying a herd of some 600,000 and northwestern Canada adding another 350,000 to 400,000. The Grant caribou of southern Alaska is probably the biggest of this type with large bulls achieving a normal maximum of 350 to 400 pounds.

The largest Barren Grounds are found down on the Alaskan Peninsula though outsized trophies are taken in other parts of the state. Every year, outstanding trophies are taken in the Alaska Range, the Wrangells, and the general area around Anchorage.

Nevertheless, if I wanted a record-book Barren Ground bull, I'd head for the Ugashik Lakes/Iliamna Lake area of the upper Alaskan Peninsula during the rut, which normally occurs around September 15-30 each year. The caribou move up the rugged Peninsula toward the mainland and congregate around the Ugashik Lakes. If your timing is good, you'll see many animals and among them will be some enormous trophies. Iliamna Lake and the surrounding area also harbor some fine bulls, most of them moving in there from the north during the rut.

If you are fortunate enough to hunt these areas during the right time, the sight of large numbers of these big caribou, moving relentlessly along during their fall migrations, is something you'll treasure for the rest of your days. Guided hunting for them doesn't come cheap in Alaska, with costs running in the range of \$175 to \$250 per day. Many of these hunts are mixed-game excursions for three to five species.

TO HUNT caribou only (or moose and caribou) you should allow seven to ten days. The weather can sour overnight and easily knock you out of several days' hunting. And the migration timing may be off so you might have several days when the animals aren't moving and you're not seeing that much game. Or, though you may see a lot of animals and even shootable trophies, you still must get within range of these fast-walking animals. Most of this hunting is fly-in and then walk.

Current Alaskan hunting regulations do not require nonresidents to have a guide for most caribou hunting so it is possible for you to either bring along your own camping gear or rent (usually at a rather steep

price) an outfit or there have it flown in with you for a do-it-yourself hunt. This can save you a lot of money but it's strictly for seasoned outdoorsmen. This is rough, wild country and accidents can easily happen to the unwary.

Also, if you don't know the area you are going to hunt, you can easily get lost or hunt the wrong sections. Doing all the camp chores yourself can add an element of satisfaction but it also robs you of precious time afield. An expensive hunt that is successful is better than a "cheapie" that uses up your precious vacation and nets you nothing but discomfort. Each hunter must assess his own objectives, capabilities, and resources and decide what's best for him. In any event, be sure to check the up-to-the-minute regulations before setting up your hunt as they change from year to year. If you do decide on a do-it-yourself hunt, any sort of knowledgeable local contact such as a game warden or local fish and game biologist can make all the difference.

IN CONTRAST, the Yukon and all other Canadian provinces require that all "nonresident aliens" (that's us rich Yanks) utilize the services of a licensed guide. There are twenty-two hunting outfitters in the Yukon, and caribou hunting is a horseback proposition. Yukon rates are somewhat cheaper than Alaskan, running around \$125 to \$175 per day, depending upon the area, services offered, and game available. The caribou hunting here almost matches the best in Alaska and it exceeds some Alaskan game fields in both numbers and quality. Alaska undoubtedly has the very largest trophies, but the fact that the Yukon has placed only two animals in the top twenty in the record book is partially attributable to the fact that far fewer caribou have been harvested there over the years by sport hunters. (Alaska generally harvests around 3,500 caribou annually via licensed sport hunters while the kill in the Yukon is about one-third of that. Even considering the approximately 30,000 animals harvested for meat by non-licensed natives in Alaska and an unknown amount taken under similar circumstances in the Yukon, it's obvious that hunting is taking far fewer animals than the herds will stand in both places. The ultimate fate of these animals will be decided by environmental and ecological factors—not by sport hunting.)

N.W.T. hunting is an expensive proposition, running upwards of \$200 per day, thus almost equaling the highest Alaskan costs and slightly exceeding Yukon averages. However, if you hanker to tread some of the wildest ground left on earth, this might be for you. Caribou here are taken as part of general mixed game hunts lasting up to twenty-one days. To my knowledge there are no caribou-only or moose-and-caribou-only hunts available at somewhat reduced

rates, as is the case in Alaska and British Columbia.

The Barren Ground racks from all three of these areas are characterized by long sweeping main beams and large shovels. The beams do not run as heavy nor is the top palmation as pronounced as it is with the biggest Mountain or Woodland bulls. (As I've said before, caribou vary a lot in antler shape, so all of these generalizations about the character of the antlers from the four types of animals admit to many exceptions.) Many believe this animal to be the finest trophy of the four types—a big bull can easily carry 50-inch and longer antlers with a spread exceeding 40 inches.

All caribou taken in Alberta and British Columbia are considered to be Mountain caribou by Boone and Crockett. Alberta harvests about 500 per year through licensed hunters while the licensed B.C. kill is around 1,600. Alberta doesn't have a very large herd (estimated to total no more than 3,000 or so year-round animals). However, they receive large infusions from the north as animals migrate south during the fall. Diligent research has not unearthed any reliable estimate of B.C.'s resident caribou herd, but it is considerably larger than Alberta's due to the former having far more range suitable for these animals.

British Columbia plans to introduce a quota system of license limitations, and the details are not yet known. Caribou may or may not be limited under that program. British Columbia caribou hunting is almost universally a horseback proposition and the costs, if taken on a mixed game hunt, will run some \$150 to \$200 per day on average. However, many B.C. outfitters do offer certain late-season moose- and caribou-only hunts at lower rates. These hunts take place in late October and November and, if you can take the fearsome cold frequently involved with them, you may be able to get by for \$100 to \$150 per day and probably you will collect an even better trophy than you would have on the earlier August-September general hunts. You should allow seven to ten days for this hunt with fourteen being better if big trophies of both species are the objective.

SOME B.C. outfitters offer special rates for father-son hunts as well as package rates if you bring several other hunters with you. If big caribou are your goal, by all means check into these various promotional hunts that do not include sheep or grizzly. Alberta hunting costs run from \$100 to \$200 per day and caribou-only hunts are available.

The largest Mountain caribou are found in northwestern British Columbia, and the fabled Cassiars produce the very largest bulls. Names such as Dease Lake, Coldfish Lake, and the Spatsizi Plateau point the way to the top trophies. Some argue that the Woodland type is the largest-bodied of all the caribou, but my vote would



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have to go to the giant Osborns in the Cassiars. All Osborns that I have ever taken have been very big animals and the largest of them was bigger than any caribou the outfitter or guides had ever seen (in body size, not antlers, unfortunately). Estimating animal weights is chancey indeed, but our combined appraisal, including some ranchers in camp who were very familiar with estimating stock weights, was an honest 500 pounds. The big antlers ran 51½ and 54 inches and were fully as heavy as many large six-point bull elk racks. I'd estimate that they weighed about 20 pounds, including only a very small piece of skull plate.

To ice the cake, this big fellow wore the prized double shovels and both of them were of decent size. I believe that double shovels may occur more frequently among Mountain bulls than among the other types. I have only seen one double shovel head in all my Barren Ground hunting while six different doubles came in on the last Mountain hunt alone. A random quiz of other hunters seems to bear this out, though my "poll" certainly has no statistical validity. It has been said that only one Barren Ground bull in 5,000 or 10,000 carries doubles, though this is probably more of a figure of speech than a statistically reliable assertion.

Most big Mountain bulls tend to run into the mid-40s in main beam length while a comparable Barren Ground would frequently edge over the 50-inch mark. Also, though the top record-book heads don't indicate any significant difference in inside spread, I do believe that the average large Barren Ground will usually be wider, pushing past the coveted 40-inch mark more frequently. (I should mention that the world-record Mountain head is 57½ inches wide).

MY EXPERIENCE has been that big Osborn bulls are more alert and difficult to approach than their Barren Ground counterparts. I've never been able to wade up a single Osborn bull, though I've tried many times. Mountain caribou seem to be warier and more alert. They're still not elk or bighorn sheep, but they usually take far less time to make up their beautiful noggins to get out of there and, once they do, they generally decamp with little of the dalliance that often characterizes Barren Grounds.

Incidentally, "Mountain" caribou don't necessarily frequent the mountains any more or less than Barren Grounds. The use of that term to describe the B.C./Alberta animals is more a form of labeling convenience than an indicator that they are more "mountainous" than their more northern cousins.

The Quebec-Labrador category is of a very recent vintage and it's purely hunting and geographic in orientation as, taxonomically, the animal is a true Barren Ground. However, due to the large geographical separation between the Barren Grounds of northwestern Canada

and the Quebec-Labrador region, Boone and Crockett made the commendably practical decision to separate the two.

THERE are a number of outfitters up on Quebec's Ungava Peninsula who offer caribou hunts averaging from five to seven days (actual hunting) in duration and costing from \$600 to \$900. The more expensive hunts are usually longer and feature better camp locations relative to the migration patterns, meaning that you should be able to look over more game and be more selective. They may also include some salmon fishing as a bonus.

These animals run about the same body size as the Barren Grounds farther to the west and they also resemble them in antler characteristics. In fact, they are "even more so." Their antlers are (usually) even longer-beamed and carry wider spreads than comparable Alaskan animals. They also tend to be a bit more lightly beamed, too. The biggest Quebec-Labrador racks usually don't rise as high as comparable Alaskan trophies, both because the spread is often wider and because they usually sweep farther back along the animal's body before beginning to turn upward.

Quebec has somewhere between 60,000 and 100,000 of these marvelous animals, depending upon whose estimate you accept. Hunting is extremely good and your chances of taking a good trophy are excellent if you will walk a lot (hunting is mostly afoot) and be selective. Since sport hunting of this herd is so recent, there simply has not been enough harvesting and record-keeping to indicate what the maximum size of these animals may be.

It is fascinating to note, though, that the all-time high-scoring caribou head of any type is a monster Quebec-Labrador rack which, at 474½ points, outcores the leading Barren Ground and Mountain heads by 10 points apiece and exceeds the Woodland by more than 50 points! Shot in 1931 by an Eskimo, this fantastic trophy was formerly classified with the Barren Grounds and it has successfully fought off all comers for over 40 years.

The Woodland is the smallest of the four general types in antler development and the island of Newfoundland is the only place where significant hunting remains for them. This has led the authorities there to recently place a \$500 price tag on caribou permits, if the sportsman is fortunate enough to draw one. The island's herd runs about 16,000 to 19,000 animals, down considerably from populations around the turn of the century.

By the authorities' own estimate they have adequate range for about twice that many animals, but apparently they are having some difficulty building the herd back up to that level. Moose were introduced to the island back around 1900 and with a herd now estimated at 70,000



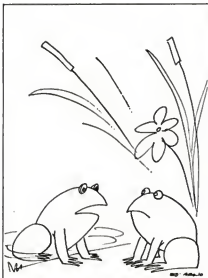
to 80,000, they practically overrun the place. However, it is claimed that there is no indirect competition of any sort between the two or consequent displacement of one by the other. The moose licenses have been, in the case of "rich Yanks," raised to almost equally stratospheric levels.

However, compared to its cousins farther west, these animals are somewhat less desirable trophies. These caribou (or "stag" as they call them) are big-bodied animals with racks having far less sweep and spread than racks of the other types. The antlers on the best bulls are reasonably heavy and well palmated, though.

Costs run about the same as for northern Quebec or slightly more (always remember that \$500 license!). Though some fine outfitters and guides operate here, others don't have the best of reputations and, quite frankly, unless you have already secured the other three and just have to have the fourth, your money could be better spent somewhere else.

He's a grand animal, the caribou. His unique relationship with the big northern wolf is one of the most fascinating on earth, as is his whole method of living, with its endless travel over some of the most inhospitable yet beautiful terrain on earth. For all the strength and vigor that allows him to thrive in those harsh lands, he does not stand the encroachment of man and his civilization very well. Like the grizzly, he is a creature of the truly wild places, unable to fit his free-roaming, vagabond ways to man's scheme of things.

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# Small Gauges—the Defense Rests

## Shooting



BY BOB BRISTER

What counts is the choke and the payload of shot, not the size of the bore

I GUESS my friend Charlie is about what a hunter should be in this day and time. He's getting fewer birds but it bothers him less. He'd rather watch a young dog come down on a covey than make a double in a high wind. And the farm where he hunts has more quail on it (thanks to time, labor, and money he's spent

on feeders and disking the soil along fencelines) than when Widow Williams owned it and didn't allow a shot fired for twenty years.

But what Charlie is really best at is looking forward to things.

The other evening he drove up in my driveway and asked if I might be interested in a divorce, or maybe drawing up a last will and testament. Charlie is a lawyer and he thinks like one.

"I'm coming to you for professional advice," he explained. "And I'd like to swap services."

Right then I knew Charlie had started looking forward to a new shotgun. He didn't necessarily want to divorce his fine and faithful old Parker 12-gauge, but he wanted me to convince him that what he really needed was some wasp-waisted little floozie of a foreign gun to recapture his youthful swing.

"Way I look at it," he began, "we're not getting any younger. The hills are getting a little steeper and the days a little longer. If a man is going to switch to a lighter gun he should do it while he's young enough to enjoy it, right?"

I told him his old Parker was a pretty light gun.

"Well," he argued, "a man's brain eventually gets boggled by 12-gauge recoil and subconsciously starts telling him it doesn't want to be kicked like that anymore. Isn't that why so many oldtimers at trapshoots use release triggers to get around flinching?"

I told him some of us oldtime trapshooters can flinch from a .410, and that there is no such thing as "12-gauge recoil." Put the same amount of shot and powder in a 20-gauge and it will kick the same as a 12, probably more because the 20-gauge will usually weigh less. I

suggested that if weight and recoil are both bothering him, he probably should get himself a gas-operated 20-gauge autoloader. Remington and Ithaca both make 20-gauge gas guns that weigh 6½ pounds, and Franchi makes one that weighs 5½ (but has no gas recoil reduction).

"Trouble with you," he groaned, "is you have no couth, no taste at all. Can you see me carrying a machine gun after a noble bird such as the bobwhite? There are plenty of classy double and over/under 20s and 28s a full pound lighter than my Parker. Every time I pick up a foot I have to raise that extra pound. If I walk all day, and pick up my feet say 2,000 times, I've



At the pattern board, Brister proves the awful truth about the small gauges

lifted a full ton of unnecessary weight, not counting the extra baggage of heavy 12-gauge shells."

"Nobody can argue with a lawyer," I told him. "So get yourself a lighter gun, a smaller gauge."

"That's why I came for advice," he countered. "You've written that

the small-gauge guns are not as efficient; the smaller the bore the less the efficiency with the same load of powder and shot. Now I want the straight facts. How much would I be giving up by switching to a 28-gauge improved cylinder and modified compared with my 12-gauge bored the same way? How much difference is the pattern size, and how much difference is the yardage at which each would kill cleanly?"

I suggested he get out of the car and at least sit in the shade because this is very heavy stuff to be struggling through before sundown.

"Isn't it true that it's harder to hit with the little gauges and thus more sporting?" he pressed. "I've heard all my life that a .410 will kill just as far as a 12-gauge; you just have to hold it on 'em a little closer."

"How do you like your new car?" I asked him.

"Don't evade the issue."

"I'm not; I'm making a point. I'll bet you've already checked out that car for miles per gallon, and probably how fast it will go. How come you haven't checked your guns the same way?"

"Because people don't pattern guns like they check cars; they like to argue about guns. Otherwise what would guys like you have to write about?"

"Granted," I said, "but it is no more practical for me to test a gun and tell you whether you can swing it faster or better than it would be for you to test out a new wife for me in divorce court."

"That idea in itself has merit, but let's hear some shotgun facts, some logical reasoning, just as if you were the lawyer and I were the client."

So, lawyer-like, I told him what he wanted to hear. I recalled that in the reference books in my library, every shotgun writer from Major Burrard and Gough Thomas on down has written that the gauge of a gun has little or nothing to do with the size of its pattern, this being, as Gough Thomas puts it, "a function of choke rather than bore."

Charlie liked that. He wasn't giving up any pattern size with a smaller gauge.

"Next," I suggested, "we could check the registered records of thousands of American skeet shooters who compete with .410-, 28-, 20- and 12-gauge guns. We would find that the shooter of average ability, let's (*Please turn the page*)

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say someone in Class B with all four guns, would have an average of 80 percent with the .410, 90 percent with the 28, about 92 percent with the 20, and 93 to 94 percent with the 12-gauge. So we could deduct that in changing to a smaller gauge the average hunter would be giving up less than 5 percent efficiency inside of 30 yards between a 12 and 28.

"Those skeet averages were for just ordinary Class B shooters," I continued. "So if we check the top classification, AA, you'll see there is only 2 1/2 percent difference in the averages of the top shooters with the 28-gauge, compared to the top-class shooters with the 12. That could be construed to indicate that if you're a good enough shooter, who can center your birds in the pattern, the change to a smaller gauge would cost you even less efficiency."

CHARLIE really liked that. He thinks he centers all his birds. "What about killing distance?" he asked, beaming.

We went into my den where there are many books, including possibly the most authoritative, exhaustively-researched document ever compiled on shotgun capability. No longer in print, it was written by a couple of Oklahoma University professors, Dr. George G. Oberfell and Charles E. Thompson. Within its voluminous charts and graphs, the result of thousands of scientifically conducted tests, it contains a rule of thumb on the killing range of various shot loads. The rule is based not only upon patterns, energy per pellet required for penetration, etc., but upon data from the actual shooting of live birds under laboratory-controlled conditions.

I turned to page 155, and much in the manner of a layman quoting the Bible, I paraphrased aloud:

"It is the shot load that kills, not the gauge."

Then I showed Charlie the Oberfell-Thompson rule of thumb which rates the 28-gauge (3/4-ounce of shot) only 10 yards shy (in terms of clean-killing consistency) of a 1 1/4-ounce 12-gauge load. The .410 (with 1/2-ounce loads) is rated 5 yards short of the 28, and the 20-gauge 5 yards better than the 28. This is based upon 95 percent kills with the gun perfectly centered on

target, guns of comparable choke, and shot sizes best for the size of game being hunted. Maximum consistent clean killing range of the 1 1/4-ounce 12-gauge was computed to be 45 yards.

"Ten yards," Charlie smiled. "Most of the quail, doves, and woodcock we shoot at are inside of 30 yards, and if a 12-gauge will kill cleanly at even 45 yards we would be in fine shape even with the 28-gauge at 45 yards. And everybody knows a 12-gauge will kill a lot farther than 45 yards."

"That's the way a legal beagle might examine the facts," I agreed. "Even if the skeet scores indicate, say, 5 percent less efficiency for hits with the 28-gauge, and the limit is twelve quail, that figures out to about .6 of one quail a day difference. That's a little over half a quail, and with a little luck it could be the hind half."

"Barrister," he said, "you are putting me on. Now I want to hear the other side of the case."

Since sundown happened to arrive at that precise moment, we recessed and went inside where I mixed a couple of belts while he rummaged around the gun rack and looked over some of the trophies that clutter up the den.

"Southwest Open Quail Shooting Championship, 1972," he read aloud from one of them. "Hey, I remember that deal; there was a lot of publicity and a \$1,000 prize and bird shooters from several states came down here. There was some kind of quail walk with compressed air launchers hidden in the bushes and the birds came up in pairs flying like hell. Had to be dropped within a few yards to fall inside the scoring circle. I read about it. Bet you won it with a 28-gauge; nothing else could have been fast enough."

I TOLD him I tried a 28 and a light-weight 20, and wound up winning with a 12-gauge Perazzi over/under that weighed nearly 8 pounds.

"Doesn't prove that a good enough shot couldn't have won it with a 28 or 20, or even a .410," Charlie argued.

"Well, the runner-up was Sammy Lemoine, and he used a 12-gauge over/under. The man who won the following year was Graham Hamilton."

"Aha," said Charlie. "He shoots



"You arrest him while I go see if everything's okay back at the truck."



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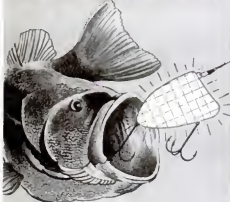
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a .410. The little gauge did win."

"Nope. When the chips were down and the \$1,000 was up, Hamilton won with a Remington 1100 12-gauge."

"That doesn't mean somebody couldn't have won with a little gauge."

"Nope, but let's take another form of registered competition where the contest is with live birds, and chips don't count. In all the years there has been a world's championship competition on live pigeons in Europe, with tens of thousands of dollars at stake at every shoot, nobody has won with anything smaller than a 12-gauge. And if there is anything that requires the most speed, it might be shooting at super-swift zurita pigeons from 27 meters. The bird is out of the ring inside of 2 seconds and also outside of the scoring ring inside of 45 yards from the shooter. Speed is critical. But the winners all shoot 12-gauges. Maybe somebody could win with a little gun; it's just that nobody ever has."

CHARLIE pondered. "How come your Oberfell and Thompson book didn't say that?"

"It did. It says: 'The smaller the bore of the gun, the lower the pattern efficiency will be, as a general rule, for consistent maximum efficiency.'"

"Hoo boy," groaned Charlie. "A Philadelphia lawyer couldn't sort out all the conflicts in what you claim."

"No conflict, just proof that almost anything can be proved with statistics. But what really counts, whether it's gun legislation or gun ballistics, is what actually works, not what someone thinks works."

"Skeet targets, for instance, offer statistics but no reliable indication of a gun's game-getting capabilities. Skeet targets are shot from known yardages and known angles, all inside of 30 yards. Target chips count as much on the scoreboard as smoked targets, but 'chipping' a live bird usually means a cripple. And gamebirds are not shot at known angles or yardages, nor do they immediately appear when the shooter yells 'pull.'"

"Sure," said Charlie, "and did you ever try and clean a skeet bird? Why did you mention skeet in the first place?"

"Because it points up some pretty big holes in what has been written all these years about patterns and gauges. If choke, not gauge, were the whole story in the spread of a pattern, then skeet scores should be as good with a .410 as they are with a 12. Both guns are choked skeet. But only the middle portion of a .410 (1/2-ounce load) pattern is consistently effective; the fringe of it is ragged and thin. To break good scores a shooter must be either lucky a lot of the time or dead center most of the time. But with the 12-gauge, effective pattern coverage is larger; the fringe of that

pattern is dense enough to consistently break targets—which is why scores of 200 straight with a 12-gauge have become so commonplace at any major skeet shoot, while even 100 straights are rare with the .410.

"Even if the total spread of shot in a pattern from a small gun is the same as from a 12-gauge, the effective pattern is going to be progressively smaller as the total payload of shot is decreased. This will vary with individual guns and loads, but in general it is just more difficult to kill birds cleanly with the light shot charges in the smaller gauges."

"That's what I said from the beginning," Charlie chuckled. "I said it's more sporting to shoot the little guns, because if you do your part a 28-gauge will kill as far as a 12-gauge; the pellets go just as far, just as fast. You just have to hold it on 'em a little tighter."

"Will your new car go faster if you hold the steering wheel a little tighter?" I asked him. "Or maybe if you pucker up your mouth just right and hold real dead center on the road will the car go farther on the same amount of gas?"

"Objection," said Charlie.

"Overruled. That is, until you at least take the time to go out and test some guns the same way you'd test a car or anything else. Shoot some patterns with a .410 if you want your eyes opened. And if you don't

believe the pattern board tells all that much about it, shoot some trap targets from 27-yard handicap with the 28-gauge full choke and then a 12-gauge full choke. Try all the gauges and see which one smokes 'em. I'll loan you the guns; you pick the ones that feel best to you."

We went to the gun cabinet and Charlie immediately spied a 28 double and a 12-gauge Perazzi MX-8 trapgun. He put on his glasses and looked closer at the 28. It is a sleek little Webley & Scott, made in England, scaled down precisely in all dimensions.

THERE is tattletale wear around the edges of the action, where it has rubbed against canvas-faced hunting pants and a few brush bumps not totally hidden by the hand-rubbed oil finish. Checkering on the straight-grip English stock is worn almost smooth.

"You charlatan," screamed Charlie. "Hypocrite! You do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do evangelist! You've been using this gun. All the ballistical ballyhoo you've crammed into my cranium goes out the window when you pick up your little gun. May I pick it up?"

He did, and his face flushed as an old musician's might upon discovering a Stradivarius in an attic. He just kept throwing it to his shoulder, pointing at some imaginary quail.

"I'll test this one," he decided,

"and take your word for the rest."

He left and I began gathering up a stack of guns to take to the range, some of them overdue for pattern testing. There was nothing special about them, just field guns with ordinary factory ammunition. But I tried to be fair, testing the best pattern of one gauge and the ammo it handled best against other guns and the ammo they handled best. I shot 'em yard for yard, choke for choke.

In the bunch were a couple of small gauges I've shot a lot in the field; one old full-choked .410 Model 42 Winchester pump, which has caused a few companions to raise eyebrows at the way it puffs a dove or quail. And there was a Franchi over/under 28 with a top barrel that occasionally will just about scalp a bird when the shot had to be taken quickly in heavy brush. The way that 28 smokes game I figured it probably would pattern tighter than a minister's morals.

No such luck. The Franchi did have a beautiful pattern, but it was still a 28-gauge, and at 40 yards it had thin patches in it, just as ¾-ounce of shot will have when fired from anything. The .410, with the identical load in a 3-inch case, was much less efficient. It threw patterns at 40 yards ranging from inferior to pitiful.

Contrary to the old idea that, "the smaller the gauge, the tighter

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it holds its shot together," that particular full-choked .410 actually threw a larger pattern, in total inches of coverage at 20 yards, than the full-choked 28-gauge tested alongside it. The .410, by the way, had a lot more bird-sized holes in it.

One of the interesting quirks about little guns has been how much harder a 28-gauge with  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ounce of shot seems to smack into a pattern board. In this last batch of tests, the first shot from a 28 full-choke jarred the thumb tacks out of the wooden pattern board.

I can't document any such "hard hitting" characteristic of the 28, but I do suspect that it is a product of a high-velocity load moving down a sufficiently large bore (in relation to shot load) and that more shot are getting to target at the same time.

IT STRUCK me (as it struck the English some years ago) that if a man wants to be sporting and shoot a small load, or not tear up gamebirds that must be shot at close range, the most efficient way would be to use a very lightweight 12-gauge and shoot very light loads in it. This would contribute to better patterns (less deformation of pellets) and shorter shot strings.

The English long ago developed such a load, and it was once available in this country from Abercrombie & Fitch in New York. The shells were 2 inches long and were loaded with  $2\frac{1}{2}$  drams of powder equivalent and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ounce of shot—in effect a 28-gauge load for a 12.

Since there are many lightweight 12-gauges available that weigh less than many 20-gauges, it might seem that if a shooter wants to show off what a sport he is, he could just as well show off his ammunition as the hole in the end of his barrel. Maybe some American manufacturer should come out with a fast little  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ounce load of shot in a 2-inch 12-gauge hull. Such a shell should pattern just as well in a long chamber as a short one, maybe better.

But the best choices we have in this country, easily available and with ammo handy in any backwoods store, are the modern, lightweight 20-gauge chambered for either 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ - or 3-inch loads, or the lightweight 12-gauge, which can be loaded down with light trap loads to give actually less recoil than a 20-gauge loaded up to 12-gauge capability.

If my life depended upon one game-getting gun (and I had to eat what I shot) I'd probably use a light, fast 12-gauge. For close quail I'd shoot 1-ounce field loads. For waterfowl I'd use  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ounce loads (or even baby magnum  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ouncers) and figure that being all bundled up against the cold (and excited over greenheads in the decoys) would let me overlook some of the recoil. The only reason I'd go this route, rather than the lightweight 20 with 3-inch chambers, is that the 12-gauge has a wider variety of loads

available and slightly more ballistic efficiency.

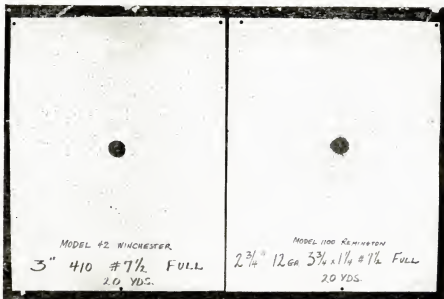
I certainly wouldn't feel any less a sport shooting 1 ounce of shot through a 12-gauge than 1 ounce of shot through a 20. What counts is the payload of shot and the choke, not the gauge. What also counts is the number of cripples in relation to number of kills. The most efficient patterns tend to cripple fewer birds.

Certainly the range at which shooting is done has everything to do with cripples. You'll recall the Oberfell & Thompson rule of thumb

parably choked 12.

Some shooters definitely can put more birds into the sack with a lightweight 20- or 28-gauge than they can with a heavy 12. But this has nothing to do with gauge. It is a matter of weight, balance, gun fit, recoil, and speed of swing.

From the sheer standpoint of getting game I'm inclined to believe most upland shooters would do better acquiring an extra barrel (a very short slug barrel of 22 inches or so) for a 12-gauge and using it in fast-handling, short-range situations, rather than a small-gauge gun in the



At identical yardages, a full-choked .410 and 12 threw these patterns. Note how much thinner the spread from the smaller gun is compared to the 12

said a 12-gauge with  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounces was supposed to consistently kill at 45 yards—every time with a full-choked barrel. That is not very far, but it is very consistent. Any full-choke gun of the gauges mentioned will kill "most of the time" well beyond the "consistently clean" ranges mentioned. But it will also cripple some of the time. And for every reduction of 10 percent in pattern efficiency (say from a full-choke 70 percent to an improved-modified 60 percent) there is a reduction of about 5 yards in the computed clean-killing efficiency no matter what gauge or choke.

And so how come you can remember killing so many birds, stone dead, with an improved-cylinder 20-gauge at 45 to 50 yards?

Check enough pattern sheets, and see enough birds shot, and you'll realize that nobody knows all the answers, nor does the predictable always occur. But if you look at patterns you will see clumps of shot here and there, and if one of those clumps of shot from a 28-gauge hits a bird, it falls just as dead as if hit with the same number of shot from a 12-gauge. At long range, however, this becomes more a matter of odds than skill. No matter how "close you hold it on 'em,"  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ounce of shot from a 28-gauge cannot consistently kill as far as  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ounce of the same sized shot from a com-

belief that it will speed up their timing without sacrificing pattern effectiveness.

I mention slug barrels because those are the shortest standard barrels currently available other than in riot guns, and 22 inches is as short as I'd recommend for hunting purposes. If you need more choke than the slug barrels offer (which is very little) an ordinary barrel can be cut back and sleeved to throw any pattern desired. Loss of a few inches of barrel length should have little or nothing to do with the gun's penetration or long-range patterning—unless magnum loads are involved.

To illustrate this point (while at the same time comparing patterns of a full-choked 28-gauge with a full-choked 12) I recently patterned a Model 1100 12-gauge barrel which had been cut back from its original 30 inches to 25 inches and sleeved to full choke by gunsmith Stan Baker of Seattle.

I made sure that pattern—comparing a sawed-off 12 with the tightest-shooting 28 I ever saw—was right on top of the stack when Charlie finally showed up to return the little "test gun" 28 he'd borrowed.

I showed the sheaf of patterns at him and asked for his results.

Instead he handed me a chilled plate containing a limit of ten doves,



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perfectly plucked and ready for the oven, with a little handwritten note on top:

"This is my test of the 28-gauge. These patterns were made at approximately 30 yards but have since been soaked in cooking sherry. To avoid stray pellets in the cream gravy I used 7 1/2s rather than 9s, therefore my hitting average is not eligible for this year's Skeet Shooting Review."

"PS, I really didn't want to know the whole truth anyway. I had already ordered a new 28-gauge before I came to your house. But if you should ever decide on a divorce, what would you want for that little Webley?"

Your Technical Consultant,  
Charlie."

DEPARTMENT OF GOOD THINGS: Of the 100 or so custom knifemakers in the U.S., Bob Loveless is ranked among the top five, and his knives are selling for \$300 to \$500 on the open market.

Schrade Cutlery has had Loveless design a knife for them, and is now manufacturing it in limited numbers (3,200 in 1975). The Schrade-Loveless Hunter, as it's called, has a 3 1/2-inch blade made of the same 154CM steel that Loveless uses in his own knives. The handle, which follows Loveless' Improved pattern, is made of Delrin, and is supposed to be almost indestructible. Even the pouch-style sheath is designed by Loveless. Suggested price is \$100.

Let us gasp at that figure, let me testify that the knife is worth it. The design is excellent, and the blade hangs on to its edge like grim

death. I worked a factory sample on a black Arkansas stone for a few minutes and came up with a shaving edge. Ten minutes of whittling heavy cardboard, which will wreck all but the best knives, didn't affect this one in the least.

Granted, you don't need to spend \$100 for a hunting knife—or \$50, for that matter—but I've found that there is a distinct pleasure in owning equipment so good that ordinary use doesn't even begin to challenge it. Such items usually make the price you paid for them seem very small indeed.

These knives will be carried by dealers that stock the Schrade Uncle Henry and Old Timer lines, or you can get information on where to buy directly from Schrade Cutlery, Dept. FS, 1776 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019.

Of very high quality and astonishingly low price are the saddle scabbards made by W. C. Hape, Dept. FS, Box 26, Wyanon, Wyo. 82845. Chester Hape builds these strictly to order, and they are of a quality, both in workmanship and leather, that you just don't see anymore. Moreover, they are very trim jobs, with no wasted leather and no bulk.

The scabbards are fully lined and come with a hood as standard equipment. You can order one either plain (or with your name on it at no charge) or fully tooled. At present, the cost of the former is \$75 plus \$2.50 for shipping. However, the price of leather is subject to change, so it's best to write Chester Hape for full particulars first. The man is an artist; no doubt about it.—DAVID E. PETZAL

## Bluefish cornucopia

(Continued from page 65)

near the tail. This is then attached to your line by running the snaffle hook through a link of the chain and through the lips or eyes of the bait. To save time the experienced angler keeps half a dozen threaded baits always handy.

In fishing at "The Race," it helps to know just what kind of freakish thing the place is, how it was formed, and why it attracts the biggest of bluefish every fall.

During the latter part of the Ice Age, which ended 15,000 years ago, great glaciers covered much of North America as well as the British Isles and Scandinavia, in many places more than a mile in thickness. So much water was impounded in this ice that the water level of the oceans of the world dropped 400 feet below their natural levels. This great ice mass moved slowly southward with incredible power. It tore down mountains and made sand out of huge boulders. It stopped against a range of ancient mountains where Long Island now stands. It covered all of Manhattan and most of Brooklyn. There, for cons of time, it was

held at bay, melting as fast as it advanced. The rubble it carried formed Long Island, including Montauk Point. It continued on to form Block Island and joined the mainland at the base of Cape Cod, which was formed by another lobe of the same ice sheet.

Then, while standing firm at the Manhattan end, the ice retreated a bit to form Orient Point and a ridge of sandy hills extending to Watch Hill in Rhode Island. Fishers and Little Gull Islands were part of that ridge. When the Ice Age began to wane, Long Island Sound became a freshwater lake of icy melt-water and huge blocks of ice. Its level rose much higher than at present. And because the Manhattan end was still plugged solid by ice its only outlet to the sea was through channels at its eastern end. Eventually the dam of sandy hills burst at the point we now call "The Race." Rushing water and huge ice blocks tore a deep gorge; this gorge would have continued to the Continental Shelf except for the fact that the ocean level had risen a great deal, and after a

short distance the ice found enough water to float on. Whereas surrounding water is seldom more than 70 or 80 feet deep, the gorge of "The Race" at its deepest point is nearly 350 feet deep.

Big blues can buck the fast water coming out of Long Island Sound where the gorge forms a brink almost like a waterfall; the turbulence doesn't bother these powerful brutes, but the small fry are helpless in it. Blues chomp and slash through billions of small fishes and the scraps float to the surface to create a feast for the frantic gulls.

Man comes to "The Race" to prey on the predatory blues. Only the fittest or the luckiest baitfish escape to take their place in the sea. The whole thing is Mother Nature's way of keeping things in balance. If we could see what goes on 200 or more feet beneath the surface, the show would be every bit as spectacular as that which we do see.

ON THIS present trip my sons and young Bizz were having a ball. I stayed with them to acquaint them with fishing for blues as it is done at "The Race." They're all accomplished fishermen and needed little instruction. In fact, low clouds and some light rain now and then made it anything but a good day, yet when the whistle blew at 11 o'clock to end the morning session the boys had accounted for about forty blues; for them it was a great day.

There are other party boats sailing on "The Race" out of such places as Montauk Point at the tip of Long Island, New London in Connecticut, and Point Judith in Rhode Island. So far as I know the *Mjoy* out of Niantic is the only boat favorably situated to make two trips daily. The fare here is \$13 for either trip, but if you go in the morning, you can make the afternoon trip at half fare. For either the fisherman or the tourist bent on a sightseeing adventure, the trip is well worth the money. Rods can be rented on any party boat, but I believe a camera is more important than a rod, especially at "The Race."

Through the months of September and October along the Eastern Seaboard weather conditions are usually ideal for any kind of party-boat trip, and these are really the best fishing months of the year. There are two parts of any bluefish trip aboard the *Mjoy* I especially like. The first of these is going out in the morning to meet a colorful dawn directly over the bow. The second is coming home through the afterglow when the sun has gone down off the port bow into the waters of Long Island Sound.

The first portends a grand day. The second is a wonderful time for friendly togetherness and appreciation of the beauties of Nature. It is also a reminder that somewhere supper will be waiting, and one is always healthily hungry. It is indeed as the old song says, "The End Of A Perfect Day."

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# The Pirate-Proof Boat

## Boating



BY F. M. PAULSON

Here's a course in the science of making life hard for the light-fingered

WE CAN all wish it were otherwise, but the fact is that boat, motor, and marine accessory thefts have been rising for several years. And the outlook for the future is just as bad, say the marine insurance officials, police, and state watercraft division personnel whom I queried.

One insurance adjuster noted that claims against his company for stolen boats and motors have been jumping 20 percent annually. Those states with high boat registrations—

Texas, New York, California, Minnesota—understandably have suffered most. But boat bandits also sneak in and out of remote, rural areas as well.

Watercraft division officials have told me that while springtime is a peak period, when the demand makes it easier to unload stolen boats, autumn, surprisingly, reflects an increase in boats reported stolen. That's because marinas are more deserted, and trailer parking areas in state parks are patrolled less frequently. This is the time of the year when fishermen and waterfowl hunters suddenly discover that the boat they moored at the end of a lonely road has disappeared. And boats that are put to bed for the winter also frequently offer easy prey for thieves. Winter covers may keep the snow out, but they don't keep burglars from seizing accessories that are left on board.

Police officials blame current economic conditions for the rising tide in boat thefts. A jobless situation provides the time and temptation for many who might not normally steal. Police also note that it is easier to snatch and unload a boat for money than it is to steal a car. And boat thieves seldom face the same severe penalties that car thieves do. In most states it's a felony to alter the serial number of an auto, but only a misdemeanor to do the same thing to a boat.

Boats, says another major insurance adjuster, are not only easier to steal and dispose of than cars; they also are less likely to be recovered. While up to 85 percent of all stolen automobiles are recovered, the figure for boats and motors is about only 10 percent. The boat industry is years behind the automobile industry in identification safeguards, accord-

ing to a spokesman for the National Auto Theft Bureau (which now is also involved with the problem of boat thefts).

States vary in requirements for registration. In Ohio, for example, you don't have to prove title to get registration for any boat under 14 feet long. Yet many canoes, duckboats and cartop craft are under that length. Hull identification numbers were not required nationally prior to November 1, 1972. There are, of course, thousands of boats in use without a manufacturer's identification number. Actually, identification numbers on many boats still are too easy to alter or change. In most cases all that a thief needs to do is pop the rivets that hold the manufacturer's nameplate and number to the hull.

The professional boat pirate is well aware of these deficiencies, and capitalizes on them. Some, operating in rings, have moved hundreds of stolen boats from one state to another where, through falsified records, they have obtained new, seemingly valid registrations. They change hull identification numbers, switch engines, and sometimes repaint the hull. Some boat thieves are so sure of themselves they operate on a "customer order" basis. The buyer passes along word as to the kind of boat and motor he wants, and the right price. And the burglar matches that order. It's a little more trouble, but then, it's a sure sale.

What can you and I do to avoid becoming another statistic? The insurance men, policemen, and state officials are aware that it's not easy to make a boat 100 percent theft proof, but all of them do believe there are ways to make it harder for a crook to steal it. Likewise, you can improve your chances of recovery



by taking certain precautions.

The director of marine services for one of the nation's major small boat insurers says that: "Time is a key factor in preventing thefts. Anything you can do that will slow down the thief is in your favor. The professional thief, as well as the joyriding teenager who only intends to borrow the boat for a day, will pass up your boat, or give up in the midst of his attempt if you create obstacles that slow him down."

Trailerable boats are especially vulnerable, and an amazing number are stolen out of owners' driveways or other parking spots. Boat owners who live in apartments and must park their rigs in a lot where they can't be readily observed are prime targets. The head of California's boating agency noted that trailerable outboards represent over half of all boats stolen in his state in 1974. He recommends that "a boat owner should check his boat regularly during fall and winter, unless it is kept at home in a well-locked garage. Thieves are often correct in assuming the marina is deserted during the off season and the owner won't discover his loss for weeks." His point is that although checking won't stop a thief, early knowledge can result in recovery that might not otherwise be possible.

Locks are the first line of defense in thwarting boat and motor thieves. Several companies make special locks that slip over the trailer coupler and block access to the ball cavity. The devices are sure to foil a towaway thief. The trailer coupling lock can also be used to secure a parked trailer when you're afloat.

There are other, simpler ways to immobilize a boat trailer. Some have lockable couplers, or the chain and padlock technique can be employed

to "moor" a parked trailer and boat to a telephone pole or steel fence. Sears Roebuck offers an eyebolt that replaces a wheel stud, so that you can hook a chain to the wheel. If you're putting your boat and trailer away for the winter, or a long period of storage, removing the wheels and placing the rig on blocks provides more practical protection than any lockup device. If the boat is light enough to be removed easily from atop its trailer, then it must be locked to the trailer. The easiest way to do this is to run a chain or steel cable through the towing eye on the boat and around the trailer tongue.

Conventionally, large outboard motors are bolted securely to the boat, and require time and tools to remove. Small clamp-on motors, however, are a real cause for concern. But again, you can slow down any thief by chaining the motor to the boat. There are also lockable devices or deadbolts that cover the transom clamps. Motor locks like this make it impossible to remove an outboard without cutting the hardened steel deadbolt.

Afloat or ashore, locked cabins and hatches are a sure way to make a boat bandit pause and reconsider before he attempts to explore for valuable accessories. Whenever possible, remove such temptations as depth finders, compasses, radios, and other expensive electronic gear, and store them out of sight. Better yet, take them home with you, especially if you are laying your boat up for the winter. Your insurance policy may or may not cover the loss of gear that is not permanently affixed to the hull. Check the fine print in your policy now.

Edson Allen, Master Lock Co. executive, cautions that use of an ordinary bicycle chain and lock is

not sufficient to secure your boat or motor. Bolt cutters and hack saws make these easy to circumvent. "Instead," he says, "be sure to buy case-hardened steel chains with welded links and multi-strand steel cables. The degree of protection increases significantly with the diameter of the chain or cable. Locks should have case-hardened shackles and be matched to the chain or cable."

"Although padlocks may look alike on the outside, more expensive locks generally offer the greatest protection. Laminated padlocks are considered to have stronger cases than those with solid cases. Pin tumbler mechanisms provide for many more key variations than less expensive 'warded' mechanisms. The shackle that locks on both sides increases protection against any attempt to pry it out of the case. Brass cases are frequently chosen for use around saltwater to avoid corrosion, but the lock with a brass shackle is not as cut-resistant as case-hardened steel. Instead, choose locks with steel shackles that have been chrome-plated as an anti-corrosion measure. If you're worried about chains or cables damaging the finish of your boat or trailer, you can buy them vinyl-coated. The coatings protect the boat from damage, and protect the chain from corrosion."

Allen also advises, "Whether you use a padlock to secure a hatch or a boathouse, be sure to see that the hasp and hasp installation offers equivalent protection. There's little sense in hanging a \$6.00 padlock on a 49¢ hasp. Yet this is often done. The staple on which the padlock hangs should be hardened and of the same diameter as the padlock shackle. Rolled edges, concealed hinge pins, and hardened wrought steel are *(Please turn the page)*



One of the best ways to discourage thieves is by the liberal use of locks, chains, and locking devices. And remember that the heavier the chains and the higher-quality the locks, the better the whole system operates

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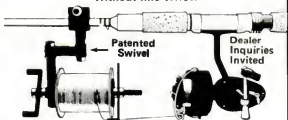
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primary requirements for maximum security. Screws or bolts used to secure the hasp should be concealed when the hasp is closed. Otherwise a thief has only to remove the screws with a screwdriver to enter the boat-house without touching the lock.

"If you want the utmost in convenience, get a combination hasp-lock. You won't need to worry about losing or misplacing the lock, and the integral hasp and lock is available in a pinless hinge design that can't be disassembled by any thief. One of the newest security devices that the Master Lock Co. offers is a self-coiling, vinyl coated cable. It stretches out to 6 feet in length and automatically retracts into a compact coil when released. It offers multiple opportunities for securing hard-to-lock-up marine equipment."

Locks are basic to foiling boat-nappers, but an alarm system will further aid such efforts. Richard Morrison, president of the MFG Boat Co., includes "noise" as a prime protector of marine property, and that's what alarm systems produce. Some even feature talking tapes that loudly proclaim: "Call police! This boat is being stolen. Call Police!" Most electronic alarm systems trigger an electric switch that sets off a siren, horn, or bell intended to attract attention and scare the wits out of a thief. Some also set off flashing lights that help accomplish the same thing. Alarms should not be used alone, but can serve well as an auxiliary deterrent. They are most useful in marinas or public areas where there are good samaritans who will respond. Simple flashlight-battery-powered buzzers are available for hatch covers for less than \$10, but you also can spend up to \$500 for an alarm that will guard the boat and all access points. Typically an alarm works off the boat's 12-volt battery.

Sensors can be installed on hatches, cabin doors, and the engine box. Horns that sound off can be powered by the boat's battery or compressed air. Some sophisticated alarms feature an ignition cutoff that prevents starting the boat with an ignition key or by normal jumping techniques. Once activated, the alarm can be set to stop after a certain period or to keep clanging away until it is turned off with a coded key. Some insurance companies, incidentally, offer premium discounts to boatowners who install alarm systems. As an alternative to an expensive alarm, it's not difficult to install a dual ignition switch, or to include a hidden valve on the fuel line. Outboard motors also can be wired to discourage thieves by hiding the cutoff switch under the cowl.

Where and how you moor your boat, afloat or ashore, makes it more or less attractive to any would-be burglar. If you can't store your rig in a locked garage, select a fenced area, or at least the backyard. If your boat must be left in a driveway, block it at night with a car.

If you must park overnight on the street, choose an area that's illuminated, and see that cars are parked closely ahead and astern of your trailer rig. Consider relocating the connection for your trailer lights farther aft on the trailer tongue so that your car extension only will reach it. Thieves who work at night are going to hesitate hooking up to an unlighted trailer that might cause them to be stopped by police.

Arrange for local surveillance when you leave your boat afloat at a mooring or slip. Mooring lines that contain steel cores are preferable to easily-cut rope. If your marina or mooring is poorly lighted, get together with other boat owners and do what's needed to change the situation. Most boat owners are happy to form pacts, pledging to watch neighboring boats when the owners are away. Some boat clubs have formed watch committees.

The brazen boat thief may get away with your boat, motor, or complete rig despite your best efforts, but you still can improve your chances for recovering it. Adequate identification is the best way to reduce the complications that face law enforcement agencies searching for your property. Authentic data should be prepared and filed by you, your selling dealer, and your insurance carrier. Boats, trailers, motors that lack permanent, uniform, die-stamped manufacturer's identification numbers can still be stamped with your personal number.

Individuals everywhere can and should enter identifying marks on boat, motor, trailer and other equipment. These could include the owner's name as well as social security number. Hide them in out-of-the-way places where they will not be readily noticeable. Electric pens or diamond-tipped scribes are useful in marking metal. All serial numbers and all hidden identification numbers should be filed at home where they can be quickly retrieved. Registration and other documents establishing ownership should be similarly filed. Don't leave them on the boat to serve the crook.

THE NEW boat owner should promptly file warranty cards to put his name and number on record with the boat builder. Under the Boat Safety Act of 1971 dealers now are required to maintain a file of new boats and motors sold, and their identifying numbers. Ask him to do the same for any second-hand boats, trailers, and motors you may buy from him. Make a written record of all minor and major modifications you may make in your boat. Last, but not least, make a snapshot file of all your marine property.

These then are the many steps you can take to insure that you and only you are going to enjoy your boat and its equipment. The more you can slow down today's boat and motor pirates, the less insurance premiums are going to cost for all of us.



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# The Plane Truth

## Vehicles



BY BOB BEHME

Some aircraft are ideal for sporting use, and not as costly as you might think

JAGGED peaks towered menacingly above our small plane as Jim Nystrom threaded the Piper Navajo through a slot in the Canadian coastal mountains. Vancouver was 200 miles south, the Pacific Ocean was 100 miles west, and between stretched some of the most rugged, uncharted, and inaccessible country in Canada.

We were on our way to Chilko Lake, a 54-mile-long string of water in a remote section of British Co-

lumbia. The lake offered 3- to 5-pound rainbow and the river, which fed it, big Dolly Varden. We planned to fish both waters in one weekend.

Updrafts buffeted the ship, but until these scattered thermals it had been a smooth, easy ride and twin Lycoming engines carried us along at 200 miles per hour. We left Palo Alto, California, 4½ hours earlier in two planes: an eight-passenger Piper Navajo, in which I rode, and a six-place Piper Aztec, which followed. Both were owned by Jim and his father who operated an aviation sales center in Palo Alto.

Towering peaks told us we were close to our destination, Mt. Tatlow, taller than the peaks around it, marked the beginning of the lake and water pointed north from its base like a blue finger. An airstrip and a resort were at the upper end, and I could see a small dirt landing strip. Nystrom circled once and landed.

I'd ridden a number of small planes but this trip, more than those before, opened my eyes to the economy and versatility of sportsmen's aircraft. We were sharing expenses for plane rental and fuel at a total cost of \$150 apiece, and for that sum were 1,000 miles from California in an area so remote there was no other easy way to reach it.

If you've rejected the idea of an airplane because you are too old to fly or because planes are too expensive, take a second look. I talked with Tommy Thompson at Bellanca and Robert Lida at Cessna and discovered, as you may, that most of the "facts" about flying are only half-truths.

Airplanes travel substantially faster than the 55 m.p.h. limit imposed on cars and RVs, fly in straight

lines, and are surprisingly economical. One averages 21 miles per gallon, which ranks it above commercial aircraft, RVs, and many cars. In other comparisons, small planes rank even better. A Boeing 727 handles 103 to 131 passengers, depending on the version, and averages 3 gallons per mile, the equivalent of 36 or 42 passenger miles per gallon. A small plane delivers 17 m.p.g., equal to 66.44 passenger miles per gallon and nothing on the ground, save a few motorcycles, can compare.

People used to fly solely for recreation, but now most private pilots have dual-purpose planes—aircraft designed for business and pleasure. If you are an independent businessman, farmer, or salesman, you may be surprised to learn you can own a plane that will serve equally well for business and fun.

To decide, try answering three questions: How many hours a year will you fly? What will you need most, cargo or passenger space? Where will you fly, on long or short trips? Most pilots who log less than 200 hours annually find the high cost of maintenance, insurance, and storage add so greatly to the hourly cost that owning becomes marginally feasible. Renting and traveling commercial planes are better answers. Similarly, if your flying demands an expensive array of radio equipment or speeds for cross-country jaunts, a private plane may be difficult to justify. But if you can use a small plane to spray crops, patrol ranch lands, or reach cities not served by commercial airlines, a private plane is something you can use.

While we flew to British Columbia in twin-engined aircraft, these are expensive, complex planes purchased mostly by medium or larger businesses. Small businessmen generally





Rotorway Scorpion



Bellanca Citabria



Beechcraft Bonanza



This Cessna Skyhawk is characteristic of the new breed of sportsmen's aircraft noted for economy and versatility

choose single-engined designs, which are rugged, easier to fly, and less expensive. There are a number of possibilities.

A high-performance single, at the top of the line, is moderately complex with an engine of 200 hp or more, capable of speeds in excess of 200 m.p.h. It has retractable wheels and constant-speed propeller with changeable pitch and can cover great distances in comfort. It is a good plane, fine for touring but not for a first-time pilot.

A family wagon, literally a station wagon of the air, has convertible space, thus capable of carrying plenty of passengers, cargo, or both. It seats six, can top 160 m.p.h. and is easy to fly. It has fixed landing gear, is a good all-round plane, and could be the choice of a new pilot.

A weekend plane, a term not necessarily universal, is similar but smaller. It is generally designed for four passengers, delivers 17 to 20 m.p.g. at speeds to 150 m.p.h., and has a fixed landing gear. It could be an excellent choice for a new flyer.

An economy single is a two-place plane capable of carrying a couple plus 100 to 120 pounds of cargo. The planes are well equipped, economical to buy, and capable of flying into and out of small, back-

country landing strips. They are good planes in which to learn to fly, are easy to maintain and are popular.

Once you decide on the type of plane, there are other considerations: a selection of landing gear and a choice of fabric or metal covering. Two landing gear systems are used: the tricycle, which has two midship wheels and a third in the nose; and the tail-dragger, which uses two midship wheels and another in the tail. There is no difference in the quality of the aircraft or in the way you fly. The decision is made by the manufacturer on purely engineering grounds. The essential difference is in landing—nose or tail first.

The choice between fabric and metal is equally academic. You may have heard stories about the superior ruggedness of aluminum, but both materials are reliable and the choice is mostly a trade-off. Fabric is tough and flexible, but can puncture and is easy to repair. Aluminum is rugged, will also puncture, and is more expensive to repair. One of my favorite planes, the Bellanca Citabria, has a fabric skin with a lifetime guarantee—which indicates one manufacturer's idea of reliability.

A final consideration is resale value. Wagons, weekend planes, and economy singles offer the largest

market although often with marked depreciation. A high-performance single, while holding its value well, will sell slower because it is of interest only to a pilot who wants its special combination of qualities.

The price of an airplane may be less than you think. A new economy single can cost as little as \$10,000 while a high-performance type will run three or four times that amount. Used planes start below \$5,000 and are generally priced at one-half to two-thirds their original price. Businessmen purchasing aircraft with company capital generally order new planes while a man with a small, independent company begins with used aircraft.

If you purchase a used plane, before you buy be certain your final choice is inspected by a licensed mechanic. A mechanic will charge \$15 to \$30 to point out potential trouble areas that could cost money. Check the aircraft log. It can provide clues to where, when, and how a plane was serviced. Be certain to check the title as well. As in real estate, some firms specialize in title searches, and information on them is available from the FAA Aircraft Registration Branch, P.O. Box 25802, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73125.

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equipment. A radio is not legally required since some landing areas do not have them, but without radio and other electronic equipment, called avionics, you may be limited to specific fields, those without radio contact or with special runways. The U.S. has established a multibillion dollar avionics network for commercial pilots, the best in the world, and with minimal equipment a private pilot can participate in the added safety of the system. Used planes and some new models include avionics while others do not. When it is optional, a basic radio can add \$775 or more. In addition, consider a transponder, an electronic device that helps to establish and maintain radar contact. It is helpful in all kinds of flying and is necessary in congested air corridors.

You may want to consider sportsmen's options such as wide tires, floats, and skis. Wide tires increase flotation and let you land with more ease and safety on rougher back-country strips. Floats expand the scope of your flying, making small, remote lakes accessible, but a plane converted to floats cannot be readily switched to wheels. Floats with retractable wheels are also available and help to give the best of two worlds. Skis, which are easily converted, are less expensive and when you live in snow country open a world of year-round recreation.

Even in these difficult times financing is easy. Many local banks are eager for the business and some firms deal exclusively in aircraft loans. Two are the National Aviation Underwriters and the National Aircraft Finance Company. The latter is used by most Cessna dealers. Several larger manufacturers have followed the lead of automobile dealers, establishing their own acceptance corporations.

If the cost of a new or used plane is excessive, there are other ways to solve the problem of ownership. One is a flying club, a plan that works like a motorhome club in which two or more people pool resources, buy an aircraft, and share its use and expense. Another approach is lease-back, an idea also used by motorhome owners. Under this arrangement a pilot buys a plane and is responsible for maintenance and monthly payments while the dealer agrees to pay a fixed fee for each hour the plane is rented through his operation.

There are only a handful of associated expenses: storage, maintenance, and repairs. Hanger storage is expensive, a luxury few flyers use. Tiedowns, that is, outside parking on a lawn or an unused taxiway, are a bargain, ranging from \$2.50 to \$5 per night or \$10 to \$30 a month.

Aircraft must also go through a series of periodic inspections and services prescribed by law. It begins with a 25-hour check on new ships and continues throughout the life of all aircraft. The most common are a 100-hour inspection and one needed to renew a plane's annual certificate of airworthiness. If a ship is maintained and serviced by local mechanics, the inspections may be no more than a "walk-around," but they can also signal a series of expensive repairs. As a rule planes are overhauled at 1,500- and 2,000-hour intervals and periodically beyond. The frequency of repairs depends on the amount of flying and some recreational pilots average less than 100 hours a year.

If you'd like to learn to fly, age is no deterrent. The FAA requires basic ground school instruction plus 35 to 40 hours of in-flight practice and most students require 50 hours before soloing. There are a number of approved schools and two manufacturers, Cessna and Piper, have excellent ones.

LICENSING involves a series of stages. After completing the initial course you earn a private pilot's license, which means you can fly single-engine planes but cannot carry passengers for hire. The second stage, a commercial license, allows you to fly for hire. From that point you add "side ratings," ATR (air transport rating), instruments, and more. As a general rule you'll spend about \$1,200 for your private pilot's license, but one manufacturer offers a free course when you purchase a new light single-engine plane.

Our weekend at Chilko was unbelievable. We spent Friday afternoon and Saturday morning on the lake and Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning on the river. In each place I had numerous strikes, always returning to the lodge with a stringer of fat fish.

If one weekend could prove the value of a private plane, this was the one. The only alternatives would have been flying to Vancouver, B.C., by commercial airline, then hiring a local pilot to make the 400-mile round trip to Chilko, or renting a four-wheel-drive for a tiring two-day drive that would have taken me to central B.C., backtracking to the lake over a winding, narrow dirt road. Both plans would have demanded more time and money than I had.

A small plane alone had made this weekend possible at a price I could afford, and as Jim Nystrom dropped me off at an airport near my home, I was sold. There are 12,500 airports in the U.S., yet only 500 are served by commercial planes. Now, I could almost see myself flying into the other 12,000 in my own plane. **77**



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# The Heart of the Matter

## Camping



BY STEVE NETHERBY

The exit line for many hunters continues to be: "I'm in terrific shape"

THE EXCUSES all were perfect. I was going East anyway to do some bike camping in New England. I hadn't had a physical in three years. Oklahoma's spring turkey season was in full gobble and Dr. George Hulsey had invited me to try it with him. I arranged for a stop in Oklahoma City.

George picked me up at the airport and drove me to his home in Norman. Dinner was elk and antelope, and was superb. The next day George, his teenage sons Brett and

Bryce, and I were in the family minimotorhome plowing through heavy thunderstorms and tornado warning areas to reach the shin oak and wild turkey country of western Oklahoma.

The weather got clear-blue and crisp in the Federal Grasslands. The birds were there. Brett and Bryce missed shots at two in the early minutes. We were reminded that turkeys are among the fastest of gamebirds on the wing. We watched six come out of their roost tree; too far. They disappeared in the shin oak. For two days we combed the hills and laid ambush in the cottonwood bottoms. Our camouflage rendered us near-invisible. Our calls were on key. Occasionally an answering gobble—rich, it seemed to me, with the wild color of the unseen tom and the spring days. Neither George nor I got a shot. But it was a beautiful hunt.

I didn't get my turkey, but I stayed another day and got the complete physical I was long overdue for. I also got some good answers to questions about the kind of physical examination you ought to be thinking about before you venture out into this year's big-game hunting seasons.

Dr. George Hulsey is a good man to get the answers from. He's been in the general practice of medicine in Norman for nine years. He's an experienced hunter and fisherman and an expert in wilderness medicine, which he teaches at National Wildlife Federation Conservation Summits. He's one of Oklahoma's best known conservationists, the president of the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation, and a member of the board of directors of the National Wildlife Federation. Last year Ed Zern presented him with the coveted Ameri-

can Motors Conservation Award.

*Dr. Hulsey, where did you study medicine?*

I graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine at Oklahoma City, and then took a rotating internship and a year of surgery residency at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City.

*Why are you so interested in wilderness medicine?*

First of all, I'm interested in the out-of-doors—hunting, fishing, and camping. I'm not a nature photographer, but I take pictures outdoors. My wife and children are very interested in camping and the other outdoor activities. More and more people, these days, are going into areas remote from medical care. I feel that a certain medical awareness should be developed in these people so they can cope with problems that do arise.

*What sorts of game have you hunted?*

Elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, antelope, waterfowl, turkey, and upland gamebirds extensively. A good bit of my elk and mule deer hunting has been in fairly remote areas—high-country mountains—and I've run into situations where the knowledge of first aid has been useful.

*Where have you done most of your hunting?*

Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado, primarily; with some bear hunting in Canada and white-wing dove hunting in Mexico.

*To the subject of physicals, I'm 32, run and backpack a lot, and I think I'm in excellent health. Do I need a physical before this hunting season?*

I think the basic consideration here is that on your hunting trip you will probably be far from medical care. So it's advisable to pick



up as many hidden things as possible before you go on that trip. Let's take hypertension as an example.

#### *High blood pressure?*

Yes. You can't really feel this and it's kind of a bad scene to be up at 11,000 feet with a hind quarter of elk on a packboard and bust a vessel in your head and become paralyzed. It's far better to find out that you are hypertensive and get that under control before you go into the mountains. Diabetes is the same way. Certainly in mild diabetes there are very few symptoms early on, so things like this should be detected before you go into the mountains.

Another common problem would be emphysema. A heavy cigarette smoker whose activity level involves going from his air-conditioned home to his air-conditioned automobile, driving to his air-conditioned office, and riding the elevator up, has not had a very good opportunity to test how effectively his lungs work in providing oxygen to the body under heavy work loads. That individual might have a pretty miserable time because of a problem that could have been detected beforehand. The physician could have instituted treatment or perhaps even advised the fellow to plan his hunting trip for lower altitudes.

There are also very practical financial considerations here. Many individuals will save money for several years for a big hunting trip to the Rockies, for instance. To get out there and be dropping \$100 to \$150 a day on an outfitter while you're sick, curled up in a tent wishing you were dead, is a real bum experience.

*So everyone should get a physical within a reasonable time before he goes out on a big hunt?*

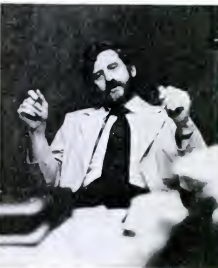
I think so, and I think the time frame here is fairly important. For most of us, outdoor activities tend to be seasonal in nature. The big-game hunter's active time is in the fall, most often. The skier's in the winter; the scuba diver's in the summer. So what you should really plan to do is to get your physical examination a few weeks or a few months prior to your anticipated trip so that if something is detected there's time to institute treatment before you leave.

*That's a good point. Are the physicals that most of us get adequate for outdoor activities such as hunting?*

This is difficult to say. What I recommend people do is call the



Chest X-rays are a part of any complete physical, and are an invaluable means of finding trouble before it starts. This particular set showed nothing untoward



Above, Dr. George Hulsey, and the Camping Editor wired for his treadmill test. This stress electrocardiogram measures the heart's reaction to physical effort

receptionist at their doctor's office—either their family physician or their internist—and tell her that you would like to be scheduled for a complete physical. Ask the receptionist what the doctor's routine charges are. Ask—of course this will be only a ballpark figure—what the usual cost for X-rays, cardiogram, blood test, would be so that you have a fairly complete understanding of your anticipated costs. Schedule the physical; and before you go in, there are some things you can do that will help your physical be more meaningful.

The night before you go in jot down any symptoms that may be bothering you—a chronic cough, shortness of breath, chest pains, changes in your weight (unexplained changes; you haven't been on a diet but you're losing weight, as an example), a joint that's bothering you, a knee that hurts when you exercise, or a heel that gets sore when you

hike. All of these things, although they're fairly minor back home, could be troublesome in the wilderness.

Also, jot down any serious illnesses you've had in the past, any hospitalizations you've had, any serious injuries, car accidents, fractures, surgeries, any drug reactions. Mention hereditary diseases—any diseases that tend to run in your blood relatives: diabetes, high blood pressure, heart trouble, things of this type.

Your physician will ask you about these things, but think them through: how many cigarettes do you smoke a day; how much alcohol do you take during the week? Be honest and write it down. Remember this, too, the information you give to your physician is confidential. He's not prying into your personal life. There's no point in lying to your doctor about how much booze you drink.

He will (Please turn the page)

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go with the remainder of your history. This is a very important part of the examination. If you organize your thinking before you go in, this will aid the physician and will help you get more for your money.

*What difference, if any, does age make in requirements for a physical?*

Well, age makes some difference, particularly for men. Oftentimes, the family doctor or pediatrician will see a youngster regularly up until the kid becomes 10 or 15. Then the male often has a real gap in his medical care, perhaps interrupted by a partial examination before going to camp or into the military. There may also be a fairly cursory examination for life insurance. So a fellow may well go until he's 35 or 40 years old without an in-depth look at his medical problems. It could be that he's got a little heart murmur of mild congenital heart disease. It could be he's been developing high blood pressure for two, three, four years without knowing it. So I think the male who's getting ready to embark on a vigorous ten-day or two-week hunting trip, or perhaps is starting a jogging program to get in condition for a trip, needs to know that he's all right beforehand. I think that in that context, any vigorous conditioning program should be supervised by the physician. Make sure there aren't any problems before you start jogging or bicycling.

*I have a friend, 26 years old, who keeled over the other day with severe chest pains. When the doctor checked him, he found a slight heart irregularity. Because my friend had never had his heart checked, the doctor didn't know if the irregularity was due to a heart attack or had been with him since birth.*

Well, it's awfully important to have baseline studies. Not infrequently someone will come to me who shows a little irregularity of the pulse on the EKG or a small shadow on the chest X-ray. It's very important to know if it's been there ten years or it's something that's developed over the past six weeks. Having baseline electrocardiograms and X-rays you can compare is real helpful in many situations.

There has been discussion in the medical community about whether or not you need a complete physical every year. Oftentimes the yield is fairly low as far as coming up with some positive finding. But I think you have to have a good complete checkup to start with, and the frequency of rechecks can be decided by you and your doctor.

*How often do you feel a person should have a complete checkup—an average person, if there is such an average?*

Probably every year after age 35. Before that perhaps a complete examination every two to three years with annual partial checkups. And every time you go into a doctor's office—I don't care whether it's for a tetanus booster or what—get the doctor to check your blood

pressure. Hypertension (high blood pressure) is a disease that we can't cure, with the exception of a few very special types, but we've got excellent medicine to control it. There again, you don't feel pain, you don't really know it's there, doing things to different organs of the body, until your doctor discovers the disease.

*What should an outdoorsman's physical consist of?*

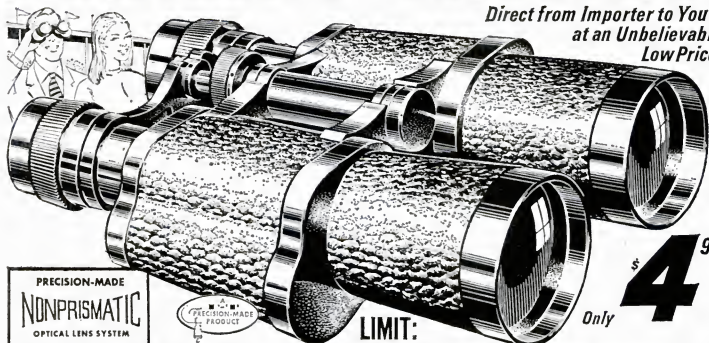
We've already discussed the history; the physical exam should be literally stem to stern. Everything from examination of eyes, hearing, sinus problems, nasal passages, throat, neck, thyroid glands, lymph nodes, listening to the lungs, thorough examination of the heart, rectal exam, check on prostate, check for hernias, thorough examination of skeletal system to check for any heel spurs, loose knee cartilages, lower back problems, and so forth. Examination of skin—things like athlete's foot, which, although a minor nuisance at home, on a prolonged trip where a lot of sweating occurs, can flare up to where it can actually incapacitate an individual.

After the physical examination is over, the physician will usually send you to the laboratory to have certain tests done. Now there's no such thing as a standard physical examination, so there are some things you might want to ask your doctor about before you go to have the blood work done. For instance, ask if he's going to test for diabetes. There are a number of tests for diabetes. Probably the best screening test is what is known as a two-hour postprandial blood sugar, where you come in after fasting, they check a fasting blood sugar and give you a sweet beverage to drink, then, two hours later, check to see how you handled that carbohydrate. You might want to ask him whether the test will check for cholesterol and triglycerides, two blood components which, when elevated, seem to be associated with an increased incidence of coronary artery disease and hardening of the arteries. Particularly in smokers and individuals with any history of asthma (even in childhood), spirometry and other respiratory function tests give quite useful information. The other thing that you should ask about is a stress electrocardiogram—a treadmill test to determine the electrical activity of the heart under an exercise load. But your physician can advise you as to whether or not these are indicated for you.

*So the "stress test" may not be a necessity for an outdoorsman?*

If the fellow's just come back from a climb of Rainier and he's 23 years old, that's a pretty good stress test in itself. However, if he's a chap who's 42 with a history of heart disease in his family—although he has no symptoms himself—and he's finally going to pop for that sheep hunt in British Columbia and be gone for three weeks... this is a

(Continued on page 142)

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weight or velocity would be superfluous.

Why do I emphasize this point? Because in order to kill a duck cleanly, you have to hit it squarely. That means accurate shooting, and I seriously doubt that many hunters can withstand the pounding of heavy ammunition and still shoot accurately.

A hunter can't assume that his gun will throw effective patterns with any shell he stuffs in it. Every gun has distinctive characteristics; certain shot sizes and velocities will pattern well in some guns but not in others. Only through pre-hunt testing at the pattern board can a hunter match his ammunition to his gun and hunting situation; only with the correct ammunition can he expect the clean kills that insure a high retrieving success.

Another pre-hunt equipment consideration is a means for reaching downed birds. That may sound obvious but it's amazing how many hunters shoot in situations where they can't retrieve their ducks. A friend, Bill Davis, described such an incident last season when he talked to a hunter just heading home after a morning's shoot.

"Did you do any good?" Davis asked the departing hunter.

"I shot a few," the man replied, "but most of them fell across that canal where I couldn't reach them."

After the man left, Davis sent his dog across the canal to search for birds.

"We picked up eleven ducks," Davis said.

Another time I watched a hunter shooting from a dike surrounded by deep water. This man had no dog, no boat, and his footgear consisted of leather hiking boots. Naturally he lost all the ducks that fell into the water.

Could the losses of these hunters be blamed on a tough situation or the lack of a dog? Hardly.

IN MY favorite marshes, chest waders are invaluable because I can retrieve most ducks by wading, but in certain places, waders aren't enough. For years I've used an expensive, two-man rubber raft to save ducks which fall into deep ponds or across canals. Dave Hummel, a hunting companion, uses a 17-foot canoe which glides easily through marshland because of the craft's shallow draft and narrow beam. Two men in a canoe can often outdistance a crippled, swimming duck. If a person is relying on a boat or canoe for retrieving, he must keep it ready for immediate action. Time lost in chasing a cripple usually means a lost bird.

Most ducks are probably lost in marshes either because they fall into

heavy vegetation where the hunter can't find them or, as cripples, they escape before the hunter can catch them. The obvious solution is to shoot ducks so they'll fall dead on open water.

That may be an oversimplification but it does point out the two basic principles behind a high retrieving rate: The first is that in the marshes, shooting ducks at more than 40 yards is just asking for lost birds.

The second principle rules out jumpshooting. A hunter continually moving through a marsh has no way of judging, before he shoots, the lie of surrounding vegetation. Even though his shots are usually easy, his birds may fall into cover where they can be easily lost.

Decoy hunting assures the greatest potential retrieving success because you can pre-arrange your shooting location to guarantee close-range shots at ducks over open water.

THE FIRST consideration in planning a decoy setup is to explore the area surrounding your layout. You should know the lie of vegetation in relation to the open water, and you should have your decoys situated in relation to surrounding cover and to the wind so that ducks will approach your blind over open water. Then, when you start shooting, you can take only those birds that will fall in the open.

Decoys should be placed to pull ducks in close, say from 25 to 40 yards. I usually hunt on small ponds so the birds will have to come in close, and I place my spread so there's an opening directly in front of my blind. Incomers normally will try to land in this opening.

The assurance of close-range shots is the primary advantage of using decoys, because most ducks are probably lost as a result of sky-scraping. At ranges over about 40 yards, variables such as wind velocity, a bird's speed and angle of flight, and the hunter's ability to judge distance accurately become too great for consistently sure kills. At close ranges, with reasonable shooting accuracy, clean kills can be expected.

In addition, if a bird is crippled at close range it can easily be killed on the water with a quick followup shot. Beyond 35 or 40 yards, any hunter who's tried knows it's almost impossible to kill a duck on the water, and at that distance a man wading or paddling a boat has little chance of catching a cripple.

When ducks come in, it's my policy to hold at least one shot in my gun. In the first place, by the time you get ready to fire a third shot ducks can, especially in a wind, be flaring at extreme ranges. Also, if you do hit a bird with that last shot,

you have no way to stop it. Last year I watched a companion lose five ducks in three trips because he refused to hold his third shot. On each occasion he missed the first two shots, but followed through and hit with his third when the birds were 50 to 60 yards out. The ducks sailed, but he had no followup shell with which to stop them. Such losses can hardly be blamed on the marsh, only on careless shooting habits.

The key to effective shooting is restraint. Just because birds are within maximum shotgun range doesn't mean a marsh hunter has the right to shoot at them. If they're over dense cover, if they're at long range, or if it's the hunter's last shot, he shouldn't shoot.

Inevitably, an occasional bird will be crippled or will fall into vegetation. Most of these can be retrieved if a person will follow a few basic rules after shooting.

The first thing I always do after a duck is down is reload my gun. Nothing is more disheartening than to start after a cripple and to watch it swim away while you're helplessly trying to stuff in another shell. Often a duck that's been shot will sit motionless until you start moving toward it, so you should reload in the blind, then make your retrieve. If the duck comes to life, you're prepared to stop it. It should go without saying, also, that you should always carry your gun when retrieving.

No matter how close a crippled, swimming duck may be, shoot it! All ducks, including the puddlers, can swim underwater like muskrats. A hunting companion of mine lost two one day because he hesitated to shoot. Both times the birds were swimming within 15 or 20 feet of his blind, so he waded after them. They dived, and he never saw them again.

"They were too close," he claimed, "I would have blown them to bits."

At such close range it's easy enough to shoot for the head, so little meat will be ruined and you're guaranteed a retrieve. If you hesitate, the ducks will dive, and that's usually the last time you will see them.

WHAT should you do if a duck falls into dense cover? The main problem here is the difficulty in marking the bird once you've taken your eye off it. As a remedy, I've made markers by tying 3-foot fluorescent pink tails to rubber balls. I carry two of these markers in the pockets of my hunting coat. If a duck falls out of sight, I stare directly at the spot where it disappeared until I've thrown a marker. If the duck falls a long way away, I throw two markers, one beyond the other, straight toward the duck, to give myself a line. I rarely hit the exact spot, but the bright-



colored markers at least provide a firm reference point from which to search, and I've saved several ducks in the past three years with this very method.

Above all, in any retrieving situation, a hunter should never hesitate. In a recent article on teal hunting, one writer said that the wise hunter will wait 'till the shooting is over to pick up his ducks. Could there possibly be worse advice? Neglected ducks have an uncanny way of disappearing. A slight breeze can drift them out of sight, and with time they'll often revive either to dive or to swim away. Last season an acquaintance bemoaned losing three ducks when he and his sons knocked down their limits but waited until later to pick them up.

"We watched right where the birds floated on the other side of the pond," he said, "but when we went over to get them they just weren't there."

That's the typical story when a hunter fails to retrieve immediately. Only a thoughtless or lazy hunter will put his desire for additional kills before the recovery of the ducks he's already shot. A cardinal rule for retrieving is to pick up your birds as soon as they're down.

PERHAPS more significant than any particular retrieving technique is the effort a hunter makes to retrieve every duck he hits. It's all too common to hear, "There's no sense in going after that one. I'd never find him." If a bird comes down, even at a great distance, there's always a possibility of finding it, and a genuine effort on every duck is the very basis for a high retrieving success. An unforgettable experience of several seasons ago illustrates the potential reward of not giving up on a hit duck.

I'd shot at a pintail drake. A puff of feathers fell from his tail when I shot, but he flew away, apparently uninjured. I watched for some time but never saw him fall, so I continued to hunt over my decoys.

The sight of those feathers showing kept gnawing at me, though, so when I was one bird shy of my limit, I picked up to go home, and, rather than taking a direct route to my car, I followed the flight of that pintail. At least I had to make an attempt to find him if he had been hurt.

After about a quarter-mile of meandering back and forth through the dense vegetation, searching each little opening, I spotted a pintail lying dead in a small pothole in tall grass. He was limp. And he was still warm! This had to be my bird since no other hunters were in the marsh that day. Saving this one duck gratified me much more than bagging a limit of birds ever has.

The thought and planning required for successful retrieving needn't detract from the joy of hunting; rather, an improved retrieving percentage should greatly enhance anyone's hunting experience.

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# Domestic Life with Nimrod and Isaac

ESPECIALLY  
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**Women**

BY ELEANOR NUDD  
GUEST EDITOR

## Words that will hit home if yours is a home of hunters and fishermen

It's a good thing we have two living rooms in our house. One of them, although no trophies adorn the walls, might better be known as the "fish and game room." Here my husband assiduously ties flies and constructs fishing rods; here the gun cabinet and the TV cabinet vie for attention; and here piles of mail-order catalogs and sporting magazines are toppling toward the floor. The floor cannot be swept—or can be swept only in spots—because of these printed materials and the various other impedimenta: boot boxes, sleeping bags, and a rolled-up tent. The sofa cannot be sat upon, because it supports one end of an enormous plywood box that is used to transport and store fly rods. The desk cannot be written upon, because everything that is not piled on the floor or supported by the sofa is piled on or supported by the desk.

Visiting firemen look upon this

clutter with professional eyes, but their wives view it askance. Their opinion of me as a housekeeper is obviously zilch. My own opinion of me as a housekeeper isn't exactly great. However, keeping house for hunters and fishermen involves extra hazards with which the ordinary housewife doesn't have to contend. When I sweep the kitchen floor, I have to move (depending upon the season) the shotguns and/or fishing rods and bait pail that are stashed behind the door ready for use. When I sweep the shed, I stir up clouds of feathers that were scattered when the woodcock or partridge were plucked. (Nimrod performs this operation over a trash can, but his aim, so excellent in the field, is poor indoors.) When I sweep other areas of the house, I encounter all sorts of items that aren't where they should be: empty shell cases, boots and socks drying out over the register, and dog hairs, dog hairs, and more dog hairs.

One dog isn't enough. We have to keep dogs for every purpose: to flush upland gamebirds, to retrieve waterfowl, to chase rabbits, and to send coons into the trees. None of these hunting dogs are supposed to be house dogs, but there are a thousand and one reasons why they have to come inside on occasion. My son, returning from a hard day's rabbit hunt, brings the hound into the house to warm her up, and she inevitably ends in my favorite chair. The golden is getting along in years, as Nimrod truly says, and therefore is entitled to sleep on Nimrod's bed. And the Lab, younger than the others but wet—and probably polluted—from her salvage operations in the river, has to shake herself dry beside the kitchen stove instead of outside in the sun.

I fuss, of course, about all these complications of domestic life, but I do it halfheartedly, remembering the contributions both dogs and men make to the family larder.

When unexpected company arrives, it's reassuring to know that the freezer can provide a gourmet meal on demand: lake trout from Canada, rabbit smothered in onions, or our favorite party menu, pheasants or partridge à la Nudd. This is a dish that is fun to fix as well as a pleasure to eat. I stuff the birds with cooked rice and mushrooms, wrap them in foil, and steam them in the oven until they are tender. This can be done ahead of time, even the day before, and then the birds can be stored in the refrigerator. At the last minute, I remove the foil and put the birds back briefly into a hot oven to brown. Meanwhile, I fry a large chopped onion in butter, add more mushrooms, a package of either frozen peapods or artichoke hearts, and a cup of red wine, either Marsala or Burgundy. When everything is sizzling, I place the birds on a heated platter and dump the sauce and vegetables over them. If anything is left the next day, the meat cut from the bones, plus the stuffing and vegetables, makes an elegant goulash.

For years I held out against cooking raccoon. Do it yourself, I told Nimrod, and he did. But lately I've given in to the extent of coating pieces of coon with the Shake'n Bake-types that are designed for pork and sticking them in the oven. I still serve myself a poached egg on toast, however, instead of and in preference to coon.

Nimrod is a good cook, but Isaac is better. I willingly give over the role of chef when a fish chowder is in the offing. My husband concocts



this fabulous dish from cusk, with the usual potatoes, onions, and milk, but he adds pinches of thyme and basil, which turn it into the best winter supper I know.

I hope I have finally convinced both Nimrod and Isaac that their contributions to the freezer should be labeled. Last spring when I was cleaning out the freezer, I found a package of what I thought was ducks. Imagine my surprise when, after they had been defrosted, I discovered that they had legs instead of wings. Squirrels!

I am even less fond of squirrel as a meal than I am of coon, and the reason is irrational, I know. I like these animals alive. I realize the excessive sentimentality of this sort of thinking. Nature's "great chain of being" wasn't planned for sentimentalists. If a lion were sentimental, he would starve. If the human race decided to put its compassion ahead of its natural appetites and turned vegetarian en masse, the resulting population explosion among cattle and pigs and chickens and deer would be cataclysmic.

So I see my hunters off for the woods with a very real hope that they will succeed in bringing home the venison.

This is not to say that I'm entirely happy about being wakened near dawn by our dogs barking at hunters who park here on the hill to keep an eye on the "deer crossing" just below the house. On my own ground

I pull for the deer—and if this isn't inconsistent, I don't know what is. Ungenerous, too!

I suppose I feel this way because I remember so vividly the experience of a friend of mine who was hanging out the wash in her backyard one November morning when she heard a shot, felt a *whoosh* of air, and discovered a bullet hole in her best percale sheet. This is much too close for comfort. Hunters should stick to the wild places.

Time was when I used to go hunting myself, so I can appreciate the kind of pleasure one finds standing half frozen and half sun-warmed on a forest path, waiting, waiting, straining one's eyes and ears for the faintest movement or rustle. The oak leaves, hanging on long after the other trees have been stripped, make a susurrus that constantly misleads one into thinking a deer is just around the corner. Staring into the mottled pattern of tree trunks, brush, sunlight, and shade, one imagines all too easily the shape of a nonexistent deer.

Hunting involves not only the effort to see one's quarry, but also the effort *not* to see the forms of fancy.

I always found the extra pleasures of hunting to be the best. Gathering with other members of the party for a coffeebreak and a discussion of strategy, I savored the warmth of the cup in my hands and the warmth of common endeavor. I enjoyed learning the landmarks of the coun-

tryside: cellar hole, old graveyard, sawdust pile, abandoned apple orchard. The sight of a deer, finally come true, was almost, but not quite, an anticlimax.

It's been a few years now since I went hunting, but Nimrod more than makes up for my absence from the scene. He makes a vocation of hunting during deer season, a dedication that sharpens disappointment when he fails to bring home the venison but heightens delight when he succeeds. In fact, one of this family's pleasantest moments is the arrival home of Nimrod and a splendid supply of venison.

Cookbooks have some weird ideas about preparing venison. Almost every one insists that venison be marinated, presumably as a means of negating the "gamey" taste. In our kitchen, marinating venison would be a kind of heresy. Trim off excess fat, yes, but marinate, no. Although venison steaks and chops are lean, not larded through with fat, they are surrounded with fat that can make them excessively greasy unless it is trimmed. Their leanness can also make the meat tough unless it is cooked rare. People who like their steak well-done won't get it that way at our house; Nimrod refuses to ruin venison for the sake of a preconceived idea.

Nor would he dream of sautéing venison or broiling it, as one cookbook suggests. In a pinch we might broil it in (*Continued on page 122*)

# Bassin' with a Fly Rod

## Fishing



BY A. J. McCLANE  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

### Some innovations in flies, lines, and rods put this sport in a new perspective

THERE is no gainsaying the fact that more bass are caught on plastic worms, spinnerbaits, and plugs than on fly-rod lures. For one thing, there are more anglers using fixed-spool and multiplying reels, which are better than a fly rig for getting down deep, and usually in warm weather, which encompasses the greater part of our bass season, the fish spend more time in deep water than in the shallows. But in the next few months ahead (according to your latitude) as the fall turnover commences and

the surface waters cool, the fly-rod angler can once again find the kind of action that occurred in the spring season. I realize there are a number of qualifications between the Far North and the Deep South, not only in terms of geography but in species. River smallmouth fishing can be productive right through summer, and some northern largemouth lakes produce excellent fishing to the fly or bug, especially in the evening hours, but autumn is a benevolent period in most regions with bass prowling the shallows at some point during the day. But contrary to popular belief the fly-rod angler is not limited to topwater fishing, and no matter how the weather develops he can expect plenty of action.

One thing that has changed in fly-rod bass fishing is the high-density, fast-sinking line. I've been using the new continuous length shooting head designed for steelhead fishing, which sinks like the proverbial rock. It's 105 feet in length and made of extruded monofilament. There are no knots or loops to catch in weeds (as the backing is attached at the 105-foot mark), and using a Keel type or Ruff Neck streamer I can pitch the feathers down among timbered drop-offs without fear of hangups. This works as good as any weedless spinnerbait or plastic worm. With a slick monofilament finish, it doesn't require more than a 35-foot back cast to lay out the full length, and in fact if you really "push" it, some of the backing will sail along behind. Naturally, one doesn't need to make 100-foot casts to take bass but 60- and 70-foot shots are easy and will sink the fly deep enough to work most underwater structures. Even in heavy water like the Tennessee River you can drop a fly down to fish level by aiming your casts quartering up-

stream from the target area. Equipped with an interchangeable extra spool and a floating line the modern bass fisherman can literally operate from top to bottom unless the structure is very deep, but compared to the limitations of just a few years ago the fly rod is a more versatile weapon.

I have been fishing bass with the high-density line for about six months now and while there were certainly occasions when a spinning or bait-casting rod would have scored better in very deep water, I also believe that the fly caught bass that had become largely unresponsive to conventional spinnerbaits, plugs, and plastic worms. My test case was on New York's Muscote Reservoir in the city's watershed system. This is close enough to Manhattan to be heavily fished yet in one afternoon I released eleven bass, with one largemouth shading 4 pounds. Fishing of this caliber is hardly unique, but for Muscote it's an eventful day. These bass fell to one of Dave Whitlock's Sculpin patterns fished on the dropoffs at about 20 to 25 feet down. On another occasion I took a handsome pair of smallmouths in the near-4-pound class from the lower Delaware River, below Port Jervis, fishing a Pink Ruff Neck along the bottom in deep and turbulent water. Bronzebacks of this size are not common to the stream, and in fact it has been years since I've seen a Delaware smallmouth of comparable dimensions. These and similar experiences indicate it's probable that deep fishing with the fly rod is an effective alternate to other methods of angling.

With the high-density line, in addition to bucktails and streamers you can use large wet flies and nymph patterns and these are surprisingly





Fast-sinking lines, graphite rods, and weedless flies are modern-day pluses



These smallmouths offer evidence that deep fishing with a fly rod is effective

effective at times. Back in the George Henshall era (*Book of the Black Bass*), the popular and only way of taking bass on the fly rod was with oversized wet patterns such as the Lord Baltimore, Red Ibis, and White Miller. As an art form these flies thrived until Ernest Peckinpaugh secured a cork to a double hook in 1910 and created the first commercial bass bug. The Seminole Indians had discovered "bugs" a century before according to the diary of John Bartram, but these were made of deer hide, and thus the credit remains with a Tennessee stonemason who marketed his wares in the old Hildebrandt catalogue. Although the enameled silk lines of that era sank, much to the chagrin of early-day fly-rodgers, the weight versus diameter factor, or sinking coefficient, was so

poor that it was not only difficult to float the line but virtually impossible to deliver below a 2-foot depth.

Although the Lord Baltimore was as beautiful as any oriole, the old style of rigid feather-wing tying is not suited to contemporary methods. A sparse yet scraggly-looking pattern such as the Burlap or Black Hellgrammite will sink faster and attract more bass simply because it looks edible. While all bass are piscivorous and engage in veritable feeding orgies when forage fish are abundant, there are occasions when a stonefly, dragonfly, or even a mayfly emergence will excite a similar response among both river- and lake-dwelling species. Some hatches create fantastic angling, which begins, of course, with the fish taking the larval forms as they rise from the bottom,

then finally at the surface. These are clearly nymph and dry fly situations. There are many evenings on East Grand Lake and Big Lake in Maine during both the late spring and fall seasons for example, when smallmouths cruise for duns and spent spinners. Once the major emergences start you can usually count on catching fish early in the day by fishing deep with a nymph then changing to a dry pattern as the rise begins. If we run the whole gamut of fly rod-ding for bass, it's a far more complex game than the casual observer may realize. But let's look at the mechanics.

Casting skill is important. Although short, accurate casts pay off when fishing brushy shorelines, particularly if the water is deep, all big bass are spooky fish, and more lunkers are caught at distances over 40 feet than under. The ability to place a long shot on the proverbial dime is paramount, especially in shallow and clear waters where a visible angler will send the fish running off to his hiding hole in a burst of speed. You have to master the double haul not simply for the distance factor but to send a hair frog or mouse through the air without muscle fatigue. This, to a large extent, depends on your tackle, and balanced equipment is absolutely essential to success.

The standard fly rod for bass is 8½ or 9 feet in length and powered for a No. 8 or No. 9 weight-forward line. It takes a "gusty" rod to lay out highly air resistant lures, which many popping, skipping, and hair bugs are, although they are by no means the whole panoply of the fly caster's art. But whether the rod is made of bamboo, fiberglass, or graphite it must be able to turn over powder-puff baits smoothly in the 0 hook sizes (usually 1/0 to 3/0). A 9-foot rod can be tiresome to swing all day, but in graphite at a shade over 3 ounces it handles like a dream. There is another facet in the "new look," however, which under the right conditions is sportier still: a 7½ foot graphite rod weighing 1¼ ounces. If the fishing can be productive with bugs and streamers in the No. 4 to No. 8 hook sizes, such as river smallmouths, redeye, or spotted bass, a small rod powered for a No. 6 weight-forward line has the essential punch for easy casting.

There are occasions when mini-poppers or weedless flies will take largemouths also and that includes many of our renowned Florida bass ponds, where the size of a lure doesn't always reflect the size of the fish at- (Please turn the page)

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traced to it; I have taken 7- and 8-pounders on No. 4 bugs in clear water and hooked one that would have broken the magic 10 marker had my leader not parted—probably from a wind knot that had gone unnoticed.

What length and strength leader to use depends on whether you are fishing topwater or deep, and the probable size of the largest bass. A long leader, of say 12 feet, may be indicated in the clear waters of the Flint River, one of Georgia's redeye streams; this species of bass can be as shy as any brown trout. On the other hand, if you are dredging bottom in a lake for bigmouths and using a high-density line, I'd cut the leader back to about 8 feet, because a long leader tends to slow the sinking process (the line sinks belly first with the fly and leader trailing behind).

The Ruff Neck type fly, which is slightly weighted, gets down to the fish quite fast on a short leader. As for leader strength, this depends on the probable weight of the largest fish, which in a Maine smallmouth pond rarely exceeds 5 pounds and 8-pound-test is more than adequate. In some of our Southern impoundments, where bass of twice that size are a possibility, I'd hesitate to use tippets of less than 12-pound-test. Bear in mind that lure size dictates tippet strength also, as neither can you get much action out of a small fly or bug when using heavy diameter monofilament, nor can you smoothly turn over a large lure in the 0 sizes with a tippet that is too light to do the job.

Every bass fisherman has his favorite bug patterns. Mine is a Queen Bee Popper, and a Popping Frog made by Jim Poulos. I don't believe anybody has ever come close to the Messinger Hair Frog, but when Joe Messinger passed away some twelve years ago, the secret of how he made the frog's legs "kick" went with him; there was a short piece of right-angled wire involved and evidently tension on the bucktail legs was controlled by linen thread. But nobody could ever duplicate, or has duplicated, the pattern to my knowledge and according to Dwight Conner of Parkersburg, West Virginia, who has spent countless days researching the

subject by interviewing everybody who knew the man—nobody ever saw Messinger tie one. But the Poulos Popping Frog is a good one and has a nice action. For a quiet swimmer I like both the Faulkner Bug, although I don't seem to be able to find these Oklahoma products around any more, and Bill Galasch's Skipping Bug.

Regardless of pattern the important thing is to stock bugs that don't make any fuss on the water as well as the popping or skipping types. There are days when one kind will work vastly better than the other and frankly, I don't have a clue as to why. On a recent trip to Dead Lake in Florida (despite the name it's one of Florida's liveliest bass waters) I caught some heavy large-mouths on the Queen Bee the first morning but by noon it seemed every fish had lockjaw. My quiet swimmer produced some fast action among the cypress stumps and thinking the popper just ran into a dead period on Dead Lake I switched to my favorite noisemaker. I tried slow, fast, and superfat retrieves, but only a few small bass responded to my offering.

Back to the Faulkner bug, which really does nothing but glide over the surface, and I was back in business. Actually, I gave it a darting movement for several feet by stripping line fast, then let it pause motionless for several seconds before repeating the strips. Ray Harmon and I fished Dead Lake for three days catching many bass and it was noticeable that popping bugs were cyclic in attracting fish. There would be a burst of success in the morning, evening, or even midday, but the payoff was in changing to the quiet swimmers when the popper just sat and talked to itself.

The new look in bass fishing with light but powerful graphite rods and high-density sinking lines coupled with the traditional floating line makes it possible to fish a great variety of lures at various depths. Weedless flies are an integral part of the equipment, and the development of the Keel hook has conspired to make the game practical. There are undoubtedly potentials not yet realized, but these will be uncovered in the months ahead.



## Domestic life with nimrod and isaac

(Continued from page 123)

the oven, but ordinarily we cook it over hardwood coals in the fireplace, Nimrod officiating. I like to serve scalloped potatoes, succotash, and a green salad with venison, but no sauces—nothing to blanket the flavor of the rich, gamey meat.

These culinary joys are only part of the satisfaction I find in domestic life with Nimrod and Isaac. They are good to have around the house, largely because they are never bored as so many people these days seem

to be. They have a continuing zest for life. What if the collar of my winter coat is mistaken by a Labrador puppy for some kind of wild animal? What if a trail bike is parked in my dining room during the winter months while its owner disassembles it? What if the Thanksgiving dinner grows cold because half the family is out hunting? These inconveniences are more than balanced by the pleasure of domestic life with Nimrod and Isaac.



# The Letort Cricket

BY ERIC PEPPER

**HOOK:** No. 12—16 2X long dry fly  
**THREAD:** Black  
**TAIL:** None  
**BODY:** Black fur, dubbed on tying thread  
**UNDERWING:** Goose primary fibers, dyed black, doubled and tied flat over body  
**WING:** Deer body hair, dyed black  
**HEAD:** Clipped deer hair (butts of wing material)

Ed SHENK designed his fly to ride on the surface film and present a dense, dark silhouette, which would be representative of the flush-floating land insects on the Letort Spring Creek. The fly is fished as any dry fly, but it may be twitched occasionally to imitate a struggling insect.

The cricket design may be adapted to represent other insects. When tied in a number of natural-matching sizes and colors, without the underwing, this little deer hair fly makes a good caddisfly imitation. An earlier pattern, the Letort Hopper, designed by Ernest Schwiebert, is tied in



much the same manner, using a yellow nylon body, turkey quill underwing, and natural brownish-gray deer hair.

When tying the Letort Cricket, you must build up the body where the underwing is tied in so that the quill segment will lay flat. Also, put a thread base on the hook where the deer hair is tied in so that the hair will not spin around the hook shank. After that, finish the head because the rest is scissors work to shape the head and trim off any stray fibers of deer hair.



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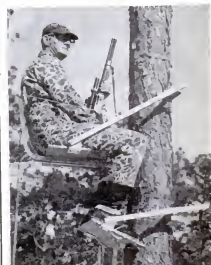
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## PART II

# The Gun Dog Horse

### Gun Dogs



BY BILL TARRANT

Before training starts, here's advice on where and how to begin

THE DAYS are lifeless, lightless, smashed thumbnail gray. We ride the U. S. Open Brittany championship at Ardmore, Okla., in intermittent rain and lampwick fog. It's been this way all season, leaving gullies a quagmire, slopes a fudge, savannahs a sponge.

A few weeks before, we rode the international endurance championship on this same course—a mud-throwing event. Ever come to stable with mud flipped up and stuck in the rifle crease of your Stetson?

Now we slog along, blessed we aren't walking, following the stub-tailed Brits as they scoot and snoot for winners' honors in this premier event for '75: big pros and big dogs showing their mud-caked stuff.

Ike Zamrzla, an alum-lipped, self-contained Oklahoma City attorney, is mounted on a pony-built 4-year-old appaloosa/Missouri fox trotter. A problem colt at 2—buck you over the silo—Ike bought the challenge. Now the little dalmatian-dappled gelding holds its own among the larger Tennessee walkers, Missouri fox trotters, and other single-foot mounts (it covers a lot of ground one foot at a time).

If Ike's gelding were a purebred appy, or a thoroughbred, or an Arabian, etc., it would probably not make a gun dog mount. Such horses lift their feet straight up when they walk, extending minimally.

But a single-footer reaches. He's a shuffler: feet just clearing the turf. This results in minimum bounce—the horse doesn't jolt up and down—and interesting to note, the shuffler wears out shoes twice as fast as the high steppers.

Horses can be taught a shuffle gait. But this you don't want. It's not natural. Schooled gaits must be triggered and held by rider and horse, tiring both. But a gait that's bred in the horse is easy to hold, resulting in a smooth ride with maximum endurance for both rider and mount.

You can choose a non-gaited horse for gun dog work. Kids in Galveston prefer skate boards to dune buggies to help build leg muscles and achieve balance necessary for surfing—their local sport. The point being, we all have reasons for what we do. But if you want to glide to your birds, not chug, you'll

select a single-foot mount.

The taller a shuffler is, the longer his legs and the more ground he'll cover in any given time. The average speed is 4 miles per hour. But Ike's horse is small and must shuffle fast. The little gelding seems like a pert gal in high heels determined to stay abreast of some 7-foot-tall glider, him just easing along.

But that's the way Ike likes it and he, his horse, and dog, Killam's Sgt. Mike, were runners-up in this year's top Brit event. Ike, the amateur, has beaten the pros with a self-trained dog handled from a self-trained mount.

It's the stuff of dog men's dreams. To do the same, you must get on your horse.

It's best to start by renting or borrowing. Many a pro will put you on his second horse, or some gallery member at a trial may have an off-horse he'll mount you for the day. If renting out of a stable, or picking from a remuda, try to get the horse the wrangler rides. The wrangler is no fool and you'll prove you aren't either.

But everybody can't get on the wrangler's horse. Consequently, whether renting, borrowing, or actually buying your first horse (with an expert at side) and heeding the things we discuss in this article, *get a gelding*. He's sexless, which means he's more attentive and responsible to you. What's left of his sex drive is the faint memory of an operation. But a mare is in heat three days a month, and a stallion is always on the prowl. There are times when they can't be bothered with you, and won't be.

Try to pick a mount about 14.2 hands high. (A hand is 4 inches and 14.2 would be stated, "Fourteen hands, two inches.") Doubtless a



A good horse can be as important as a good dog in a field trial or on a hunt



Shown are the Canadian trooper's saddle and a bridle made from a check cord

good big horse is better than a good little horse, anyway. But when going for birds on horseback you'll be getting on and off, repeatedly. A horse that stands 16 hands requires you to lift your left foot belt-buckle-high in order to reach the stirrup. It's tiresome doing these splits and you'll start looking for logs, rocks, or inclines to cheat on your mount—unless you teach your horse to stretch out, or park, for lowered mounting.

Ideally the horse will be 8 to 12 years old. A horse this age will probably last 10 years. That's a good return on your money, regardless of what you pay.

A younger mount could well be a teenager or immature adult. Like their human counterpart, such horses can still get a thrill out of dashes and wheelies.

The rented, borrowed, or bought horse should be undisturbed by gunfire, easy to load in a trailer, congenial with other horses, respectful of people, calm among dogs and birds, placid when legs and feet are entangled or bogged, sure-footed, obedient when called, and able to be ground tied. The horse should also not be goosey to touch, nor should

it rare, buck, head bob, bite, bolt, be cold mouthed, or have any blemishes. And it should be endowed with a good set of legs—a horse *is* legs.

Having made your deal, with an expert's guidance, tack up. There's more gear available to put on a horse than options available for a car, including fox tails, bumper stickers, and angora spiders on springs.

The finest gun dog saddle in the world is the Canadian trooper saddle. It has a free-swinging stirrup to minimize leverage on a rider's knees, which is pronounced with a western saddle. Yet, it has a lower pommel and higher cantle than its dip-seated English counterpart. Consequently, the Canadian saddle promotes a stuck-seat for the rider to accommodate comfortable endurance riding. That's what it was made for and that's how you'll use it.

Most important, however, the Canadian trooper saddle does not lie on the horse's spine. It's built with a gullet that runs completely through the underside: a wide, high tunnel. This void negates heat, prohibits friction, and lets the horse's spine flex in a natural manner.

Determine the importance of a supple spine by mounting bareback and executing voltes (circles). Note that the horse's spine flexes like a Fred Bear bow. Because the spine bears no weight with the Canadian saddle, the under panels of the saddle distribute the load to the horse's rib cage and muscular system, which is precisely where the cheeks of Junior's rump and the flat of his thighs fit when you're on all fours giving him a horsey ride. Yet, you have an indented spine, much more so than a horse. So, have Junior sit on a rolling pin and continue your ride, i.e., get contact on your spine. You won't get far from the barn for the same reason that a horse is reluctant to go far when he's tacked with a pinch-gulleted English saddle or a cheap western saddle with flat underside.

But even a Canadian saddle can hurt a horse if not properly placed, or if the rider is improperly seated. Should the saddle be too far forward, or too narrow gulleted, the pommel pinches the withers. This causes a cold-withered horse. It's that reality of all old cowboys who had crazy mounts the first few minutes every morning. Early western saddles were pinch gulleted and fitted too far forward on the horse's withers, making the muscles in that region as sore as a corn. Eventually the renewed pressure—same saddle, same place, same pinch—numbed the area and the horse became tractable.

And speaking of numbing, pinch your cheek and release. Do it over and over. Hurts each time, doesn't it? Now, pinch and hold. The cheek goes numb. But damage is being done; pain is being endured. *Remember this when reining.* Always apply and release. Never hold until Katy bars the gate or you'll have a cold-mouth mount and one day you may go rampaging through gallery, bird field, and possibly down an interstate.

Also, as the saddle can pinch the withers, it can also indent the loins. That is, it can be placed too far back. A galled loin is almost impossible to heal—would you believe, not even within a year?

And even though the saddle is properly placed, if the rider does not stay stuck-seat (he leans back, one-cheeks-it, slouches forward), total weight is placed on spot areas and tires the horse, possibly galling his hide.

Suffice it to say, there's more to a saddle than meets the rump and you need (*Please turn the page*)



# What's a Hunter like me doing with a bag like this?

## The gun dog horse: part II

(Continued)

to read, mingle with horsemen, and wet a few saddle blankets. For information regarding Canadian saddles, contact Sheplers, Inc., Dept. FS, P.O. Box 202, Wichita, Kan. 67201, and Dunn's Supply Store, Dept. FS, Grand Junction, Tenn. 38039. Ask both companies to send catalogs.

Before tacking up, curry and comb the horse's back and barrel to remove foreign matter. (Recall the pebble in the shoe?) Now, place a brushed and shaken saddle blanket or pad high on the withers. Do it gently; don't go throwing things around and spook your mount. Gradually pull the blanket back a few inches. This sets the hairs naturally on the horse's back and barrel. If you have a high-withered horse, use a second pad.

Pick up your saddle. The off stirrup should rest in the seat along with the girth. Otherwise, when you lay the saddle on the mount, the off stirrup and girth can drag and fold back under the saddle or bunch the blanket. Then, too, the off stirrup can swing free and bang the mount's off knee. That sometimes sets him free, or puts him down, especially when you realize that a field trial

stirrup should be hooded with thick leather and has great weight. A hooded stirrup (modification of the Spanish *tapadero*) protects the boondock rider from briar and rock, plus it can be sheep lined for comfort in cold weather.

Lay the saddle on the horse. Don't throw it, lay it. Now walk to the off side and see that all is smooth. Most horsemen walk in front; everyone knows to avoid a horse's rear end. But a horse strikes with his front hooves the same as he kicks with his back. Know your horse and clear him accordingly.

RETURN to the near side, reach under the barrel and grasp the girth, bring it up and tighten the saddle to the mount. (You should be able to insert three flat fingers between girth and barrel).

If the horse swells up—the way I do when adjusting a necktie—walk him a few steps and re-adjust. Check throughout your ride and adjust when needed.

As a saddle can gall a horse's back and withers, so can the girth gall his point of elbow or belly. Make sure the saddle is back far enough to avoid the rotating shoul-

der. Walk the horse forward. See the shoulder work? Keep it free and clear.

To judge girth position, a man's hand should lay flat on the barrel between the front of the girth and the point of the horse's elbow. Walk the horse again. See the elbow come back into the barrel? Make certain the elbow doesn't touch the girth. And choose a girth at least 4 inches wide. A narrow girth, like a yo-yo string, eventually cuts from abrasion.

Alright, the saddle's on the horse and you want to board. But there's no bridle, right? If we got you mounted you'd have no steering and no brakes. And if you've never been on horseback before, that's *exactly* how it should be. We never do it that way—everyone's in such a hurry—but ideally you shouldn't have reins in your hands for reins are attached to a bit and a bit's in the horse's mouth and the horse's mouth is sacred.

To desecrate a horse's mouth is akin to striking a church pulpit with a sledge. Both the horse and congregation will be momentarily stunned, but likely as not, soon as they get their senses they'll spring forth in pain and rage.



Most equitation schools start novice riders on saddle blankets with no stirrups or reins. The student must find the proper seat without stirrups and learn to impel a mount with legs and rump. Only later is he permitted reins to a bit. By then he's sufficiently seated and need not rely on reins for balance; plus he's become so respectful of a horse's mouth that his primary goal is good hands—hands that know what they're doing and are gentle.

However, since you promise not to pull on the reins—like a water skier leans back on a tow rope—go ahead and bridle. Should the horse be at pasture you'll need to call him by rattling a can of grain. Con him with pebbles too often and you'll go afoot.

With the horse eating grain from the pail in your left hand, and you standing with your right shoulder against the horse's left, both of you facing the same direction, slide your belt, a leash, a check cord, or whatever you, over the horse's neck. Reach under and get the dangling bight.

Through the lariat loop, slip the off end of the cord that's been folded in figure eights in your left hand. You stand that way, and fold the rope that way, so a bolting horse will shrug you to side, the rope feeding naturally from your hand.

With the horse secure, lead him to control, stable, or trailer by walking

beside his near shoulder, your right arm stiff, right hand holding the lead rope close to the honda. Or, if you took a halter to field, or made a hackamore from the check cord, you can hold the cord just below the nose band.

Incidentally, watch your feet on tight turns, the horse doesn't want to step on you, but he can't see where he's placing his feet when he pivots.

Some horses can be bridled bare, that is, with no halter or neck rope. Others must be stout tied—and I mean stout. A horse should never discover his strength by breaking loose. But let's say the horse is neither head shy, nor rank, and you can bridle him without fuss. Hold the poll piece of the bridle in your right hand, the bit shanks in your left, and the reins flopped over your left shoulder (your chest is now parallel with the horse's head).

Place your right hand between the horse's ears, your right forearm above the back of his neck. Bring the bit slowly to his mouth, work your fingers into his lips at the side of his mouth and compress the bars (that ridge of gum between the lower nippers and molars). The horse should open his mouth. Slide the bit in gently. Don't click the teeth. This causes a head-shy horse. Also, during cold weather, warm the bit in your hands before insertion. And never use a dirty bit; coagulated

foreign matter irritates the mouth.


To state the obvious, keep your fingers out of the horse's mouth or find charm in the nickname "Stub."

Pull back on the poll piece as you insert the bit. Bit set? Okay. Now bend the ears *forward*, never backwards, so they clear the headstall and stick out over the browband.

Buckle the throatlatch and the horse is bridled, but not fitted. Check the bit to make sure it's setting well, just touching the back of the lips, not wrinkling them. And yes, make sure the horse's tongue is below the bit. If you don't think this is important slide a pencil through your mouth and under your tongue. How long will it be before you bolt? Especially if someone is pulling back on both ends.

There's a thousand and one bits and shanks and riggings for controlling a horse's mouth, jaws, and nose. You'll need an expert to say what's best for your horse. Also, every bridle requires a different fit to the horse's head. A good fit comes only with guidance and experience.

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## Tricks that take chukars

(Continued from page 69)

in late season on calm, chilly, but sunny days, I've found chukars clustered around rock formations, using the rocks as reflector ovens to capture what warmth the weak December sun offers. Natives of the Himalayas, the chukars are no strangers to cold weather. But that doesn't mean they don't like comfort when they can find it. By the same token, look for them in sheltered heads of draws or canyons when it's windy, or hunched up in the rocks when it rains.

A few rules should apply to any chukar hunting you do, whether it's in Southern California or 1,800 miles north of there in the Okanogan of British Columbia. Much of the maddening mystery associated with chukar hunting vanishes when you apply these fundamentals.

**Rule One:** As mentioned earlier, to work chukars successfully, you must get above them. Otherwise, the birds can be expected to run like gray phantoms, hardly seen as they ghost through the brush and rocks.

This doesn't mean you are condemned to a series of vertical uphill-downhill maneuvers. If that was the sole way to get chukars, only Sherpas could hunt them, considering the steepness of typical chukar range. Rather, a typical chukar hunt involves getting up on the high ground, like the upper portion of a ridge face, then working laterally along it. Pay particular attention to rocky outcrops and the heads of draws full of cheat grass.

**Rule Two:** Be prepared physically and mentally (with the will to do it, that is) for lots of walking. The rule of chukar hunting logistics is a bird a mile. Unlike most upland bird gunning, chukar hunting can take you so far back that you might as well be hunting big game. You may want a canteen, a lunch, or even a compass.

**Rule Three:** As in quail and sharp-tail grouse hunting, some of the best chukar action occurs after you've flushed and scattered a big flock. Pay close attention to where the birds go.

Here's where many hunters are fooled. Typically, chukars flush and fly downhill—but usually not all the way downhill. Their standard tactic is to go downward a few hundred feet, then turn (usually with the wind, if any), and fly parallel to the hill face a short distance before lighting.

So, if the down-plunging birds vanish over a brink, don't assume they beat it full tilt all the way to the bottom of the valley or draw. Don't waste your hard-won altitude going all the way down there until you've combed out the sidehills thoroughly, particularly among scat-

tered rock areas, or in brush patches like ninebark thickets.

This was demonstrated to me last fall on a hunt in Washington's canyon-gashed Colocum Game Range. Late in the day, I dropped three companions to make a sidehill hunt while I drove the car a couple of miles ahead to wait for them. As I motored along a flat ridgetop, scores of wings suddenly flashed as a large covey of chukars, alarmed by the car, flushed about 75 yards from the road and zipped hell-bent down over the crest.

Grabbing my gun, I hot-footed it in that direction. The draw wasn't a deep one, and I plunged down into it, rapidly casting back and forth through the sage and greasewood. Not even a single flushed, nor did I hear the tell-tale *choo-kar* calls of a scattered covey.

By this time, the sun was setting behind the gorgeous peaks of the Wenatchee range, so I gave up and headed back to rendezvous with my partners. It dawned on me that I'd been had again and that those birds had made a 90-degree turn and flown down along the sidehill before settling. At dawn, we went back into the same area, combed out that downwind sidehill, and got into some fast shooting when we raised what were apparently those same birds.

Which leads to some broad conclusions embodied in Rule Four: Chukar hunting requires some hard thinking along with the hard hiking. As I stressed earlier, chukar country is big country. You can waste an awful lot of time where the birds aren't. The trick is to try to intelligently deduce in advance where they're likely to be.

In the usual warm, dry weather of the western autumn, chukars probably won't be too far from water. Washington and Idaho hunters often work along the Snake River bottoms first thing in the morning, although at times the birds may not head for water until 10 A.M. or so. But don't overlook stock ponds or seep tanks out in the rangelands. If chukars have been using these, you should find their footprints, plus droppings and occasional gray or white feathers, along muddy bank areas.

In the typical hot summer and drought of early fall, the best feeding areas for chukars are likely to be on north slopes or in draws that are shaded part of the day. Here, cheat grass and other vegetation won't be as desiccated as plants on the south and west slopes.

All bets are off, however, if there's been recent rain, as my hunt with Dick Parker indicated—the birds are likely to be anywhere. Resign yourself to lots of walking, and try work-





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ing a variety of topography. If you don't find them along the ridgetops, work lower. If they're not there, start stomping out the brushy thickets in draws. Don't overlook the edges of nearby grainfields in morning and late afternoon. The point is, until you locate birds, don't spend all your time at one elevation or working the same kind of terrain.

I call these basic rules the Four-Square Gospel of Chukar Hunting. Some other tactical tips can also be useful. One, don't talk. Human voices alarm chukars at a distance and put them on the run prematurely. Hunters should spread out and work quietly, relying as much as possible on hand signals rather than loudly hailing one another.

When initially scouting an area, it often pays to do some road patrolling, stopping often to listen. If there are chukars on a nearby slope, you should hear alarm calls. When it's too windy to count on hearing them, use binoculars to glass the hillsides.

Still another tactic is to use a call. Both mouth-blown and hand-operated calls are available and they're easy to use. Often this brings a response from unseen birds. Don't expect to call them in to you, as you would when calling ducks, turkey, or varmits. The gimmick here is to determine first if there are any chukars in the general area; second, roughly where they're located.

A useful trick was passed on to me by Tom Knight, another Washington Game Department chukar enthusiast. The shrill whistle of a hawk's call will often stop a running covey of chukars. The birds instinctively freeze into hopefully camouflaged immobility. This is particularly useful when you suddenly hear a haunting chorus of *choo-ka* alarm calls ahead. That likely means you have a covey on the run, and large chukar flocks are notorious for flushing out of range. The hawk call will often freeze some of the birds until you work closer.

But locating and getting within range of chukars is only part of the battle. These 15- to 19-ounce hill partridge are small targets. Worse, they tend to take off fast and low, then drop abruptly over the nearest declivity. Since most shotguns are built to shoot a bit high, the gunner has a built-in handicap at a fast-dropping target.

That's why it could be paraphrased, "Never have so many birds been missed so often by so many."

Three solutions offer themselves. First, before going chukar hunting, go out for a practice session with clay pigeons and a hand trap. Hold your fire until the clay is dropping. Enough of this shooting will give you a feel for busting a plunging, not rising, target. That's what maybe 75 percent of your chukar shots are likely to be.

Another remedy is more drastic. Take a spare smoothbore, if you have one, and proceed to plane, rasp, and sand off enough comb height

until the gun no longer shoots a tad high. This is a major stock refinishing project; and frankly, the gun henceforth won't be good for much else except chukar shooting. Only a fanatic would do this, of course, but chukar hunting has a sneaky way of becoming an obsession with hunters who try it.

A third possibility is to mount an optical sight on a shotgun, then deliberately sight it in to shoot low. I did this with a 1X (zero magnification) shotgun scope and it works very well for me. On the first hunt with this scoped pumpgun, I avenged a lot of misses. Pumps and auto-loaders are best adapted to optical sights and mounts, but at least one of these devices can be mounted on side-by-sides.

WHAT are the best gun and shot combinations for chukars? Many hunters go for the classic solution to upland bird shooting: a light, fast-handling double—often in 20-gauge. The light gun idea is basically sound because of the gruesome amount of uphill foot-slogging that serious chukar hunting requires.

Although not as tough to knock down as the much bigger ringneck, chukars are well-muscled, hardy birds. I don't find No. 6 shot too much for them. When longer shots at spooky coveys are the rule, I'll even use No. 5s. Working up singles in cover is likely to be a much closer proposition, and here 7 1/2 shot is okay. But at longer ranges beyond 30 to 35 yards, I've seen 7 1/2s knock puffs of feathers out of flying chukars without bringing the bird down. They simply aren't as fragile as quail, grouse, or doves.

Opinions on choking vary widely, too. Many gunners like something as open as improved cylinder. Along with a few other hard-nosed types (one of whom even uses a 12-gauge magnum duck gun on chukars), I prefer modified or full choke at times. The double gun man, however, with improved and modified tubes on his side-by-side or over/under is well fixed for the vast majority of chukar shots.

Chukars have a peculiar way of eventually infuriating the hunter. After a fast-talking covey leads you on a wild chase up a hillside, only to vanish on the flats above or flush out of range, you find yourself gritting your teeth. What started out as a hunt becomes a vendetta. My normally good-natured hunting chum, George Hess, came back from one early-season chukar hunt, unburned, leg-sore, and cactus-punctured. With an expression like an oriental war idol, George rasped at me, "The chukar is an evil bird."

However, it's when chukars are playing their most maddening tricks on you that you realize they're also a great bird. They're canny, tough little devils, inhabiting a harsh, hostile land that tries the endurance and will power of men and dogs at the same time the chukar is trying their patience.



(Continued from page 72)

day, we managed to troll an hour or two, finding new shoals, learning the twists and turns of their outlines so we could keep the swimming flies just beyond the edges of the flats where the big ones should be. We had just a nagging doubt about this kind of fishing, for Bud had told us that he had never seen one of the really big ones taken on a surface streamer. He knew as well as I that big lakereels did take streamers, but he had never seen one taken that way in the Brooks. I suspected that his various clients, trying a day's fishing during their hunt, had perhaps tried streamers, but having no quick luck, had resorted to the safety of the time-tried red-and-white or other color spoon or big spinner. I had determined to eschew spoons and the "Egyptian jewelry" and stick strictly to streamers, for while I wanted to hang one of the big ones, I also wanted to do it with a fly rod. I decided that if I didn't catch one for meat during the first few days I would try the spoon on the surface, but this was not necessary.

The second day, trolling the edge of a shoal that we came to call the "snag shoal," there was the sudden swirl and smashing hit and I was into a laker. The fish put on a good show but he weighed only 7 pounds and when I picked him up by hand, I had a little twinge of doubt, for by that time I knew to my disgust that we had forgotten the landing net. I knew then that I would have to beach any big one that I hooked for the little laker was difficult enough to get a handhold on. This was a beautiful fish, his pectoral fins edged with red and his gray-mottled sides handsome and interesting. He was beautifully streamlined, as small lakereels always are.

WE SOMETIMES trolled two rods, giving a little jerking, pumping action to one of them, just as one would do trolling streamers for landlocked salmon, and on the other rod letting the fly (or flies, for we sometimes tried both terminal and dropper flies on the same leader) troll without action. Of course, we varied the speed of the canoe, the length of the line employed, and we ran the gamut of fly patterns. The flies we had were the Gray and Black ghosts, the Barnes Special, 9-3, Mickey Finn, Brook Trout, and Supervisor. These were all double-hooked tandem flies. In addition we had smaller streamers of a variety of patterns and perhaps it is not exaggerating things to say that the only flies on which we took trout were the Gray Ghost and the Supervisor. It is true that we trolled these two patterns pretty consistently, but almost always accompanied by another pattern on either the dropper or terminal leader. But it seemed to us that the fish did show a real

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preference when one considers that with the choices offered, the strikes usually came on one of these two patterns.

During these first days, we managed to do a lot of beaver watching, for the big rodents were putting up their winter's feed. Almost every sand beach showed the scraggly multiple scratches of willow branches cut off and dragged to the water—and they were also mudding their houses. It was a nice break from the fishing to pull into the willows and watch the big animals collect mud from a nearby shore, swim to the slanting trail onto the house, get up onto their hind feet in the shallows and waddle, duck fashion, up onto the house, holding the mud against their chests.

SOMETIMES we would wait until evening for our hour's troll; on other occasions we would start early. But the fishing was sporadic for, as I have said, we had many things to do and look at. One day a local cloud equipped with its own rain-bow, and then a double rainbow, followed us lazily for two hours down the shore, showing its colors all the while. It was a kind of local show in full color as most of the heavens were clear.

With all the variety of action things to see and do, there ran a thread of anticipation through my own thoughts and the hope that the weather would get colder, the water chillier, and the big trout would rise from the depths. Finally, after three or four freezing nights we took off for a short troll across the mouth of the river. There the shallow bottom, brilliantly white with its sandy bottom, dropped off sharply into deeper water. My wife called this "the hot-spot," for we had taken a couple of fish there.

I was fishing one rod, giving the fly a pulsating action to simulate the stop-and-go motion of a swimming baitfish. As always, since hope springs eternal in this aging breast, I expected a take at any time. And then it happened. Behind the swimming fly there suddenly came a rolling tidal wave of water. At first I did not recognize it for what it was, and looked about quickly for some source of wind or current to produce such a wave. Then I came to and realized that it was water being pushed ahead of a big fish. I had little time to think, for in a second there came the massive bulge and swirl that broke into a huge splash as the fish seized the fly. For a thrilling moment the trout was almost fully visible, his big sides displaying a dismaying depth of body. He looked bigger than he actually was, but he would do.

His strike almost took the rod out of my hand, and then, quick as a flash, he lunged away with a second smash that did literally tear the rod away from me. His second rush came just as I was taking a better grip on the cork and I remember feeling foolish as I scrambled clumsily to

retrieve the rod. I was so relieved that the 8-pound-test tippet seemed damned frail for this animal.

This fish set the pattern of the big ones. He fought for three or four minutes near the surface, then sounded, and the battle began. Sheila cut the engine and, with the paddle, kept the canoe crosswise to the fish and line. It was pump, reel, and pump again, and after about ten minutes of this wrist-fatiguing struggle Sheila said, "Hadden't I better begin to edge toward the beach?"

It was a sensible question, for I had forgotten that we were three-fourths of a mile from there and I would probably not be able to hand-land this one. I found that sometimes we could "walk up" the fish just as one can occasionally do with an Atlantic salmon; i.e., he would follow the moving canoe, seeming to go with the steady and smooth pull. Then he would sulk, hold back solidly, and I would have to pump and reel and pump again. Thirty minutes later, without babying him one bit, we got to the narrow sand beach in front of the cabin. As I stepped out I heard Sheila comment, "That's the most graceful motion I have seen from you getting out of the canoe . . . usually you get out like a bull moose." But I had my turn to laugh when I asked her to handle the fish which, after another five minutes, I had on his side in shallow water. She made quite a display of herself trying to gill the trout in the shallows, but she finally made it, splashing and floundering to dry land, dragging it after her. It seemed mighty big to us when it tipped the scale at 15 pounds, 4 ounces.

The moon rose in a cloudless sky that night and the night after and the temperature fell to 5 below. As we watched the moon rise, Sheila said, "This weather should bring them in," and it surely did. We had two big tsunami rises, as we began to call these tidal-wave come-ons of the big fish, but each time there was no strike in spite of my stripping-back tactics. But the third day, there was ice along the shores and we took off after breakfast with high hopes. We fished two hours and took a small trout and had a really big great northern near the inner edge of a long shoal.

THE FOLLOWING day we put off fishing until evening and, as so often happens, we covered the waterfront—literally without a rise. But suddenly, on our way back, as we swung around the far point of the long shoal (as we had named one that thrust out a quarter-mile into the lake) a big one came on. There was the sudden bulge and moving wall of water, this time with a great wake trailing out behind. Then the fish fell off. "Aaah, he's quit," I yelled in bitter disappointment but he then came on again, and again fell off. As the canoe cruised along I stripped back line and, continuing the pumping action, lured him on





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the fishing had been sensational, he answered, grinning in profile, as he kept his eyes on a local snowstorm ahead. "Yes, you had good fishing, but the big ones evidently haven't come into the shallows in any great numbers yet. Otherwise you guys would probably have caught four or five of those big ones every evening."

We'll settle for what we had, but it's evidently true, as Bud had predicted three weeks before that, "Usually the later, the bigger—" 

## Turkey dogs and fall hunting

(Continued from page 58)

logging had all but devastated the prime habitat in the Piedmont Region, Commission game managers turned their attention west across the Blue Ridge Mountains. There, the heavily wooded Jefferson and George Washington National Forests provided over a million acres of prospective turkey habitat. While there were good turkey populations in certain areas such as the Gathright Wildlife Management Area in Highland County, much of the big mountain country was practically devoid of turkeys.

It was obvious Virginia's turkey hunting would have to move west. The big birds would have to be established in the mountainous forests where controlled logging could assure them of suitable habitat.

The Commission's experience with game-farm birds had been far from satisfactory. Wild birds would be needed for the seed stock. And so turkey-rich Gathright Wildlife Management Area became the trapping grounds for birds that found new homes throughout the western part of Virginia.

The big birds flourished in their new homes, and soon the veteran Piedmont hunters were traveling west in November to hunt their favorite game.

But the Commission did not desert the Piedmont Region. By limiting the eastern hunting to gobblers it has been possible to maintain fair populations in the limited eastern habitat. The complete protection of the hens has even brought about modest increases in turkey populations in some areas.

Another innovation was the establishment of a spring gobbler season. The first one in 1961 was limited to a few experimental areas. It proved successful, and next year the Commission proposed spring hunting for other parts of the state. Early opposition was strong—almost bitter. Much of it came from the old turkey hunters, those who favored the fall season and the November sessions with their prized dogs.

Like most outdoor writers in the state, I found myself in the middle of the controversy. It filled dozens of weekly newspaper columns, and in the process I became a turkey hunter.

Hunter resistance to the program followed two avenues of approach.



One was based on a genuine concern for the turkey populations. Some feared the spring hunting would disturb the hens during the nesting season, and that unscrupulous hunters would shoot birds of either sex. The Commission countered that spring hunting was a quality sport that emphasized the hunter's skill at calling and concealment. Nesting hens would not respond to the hunter's call. Furthermore, spring hunting would, for the most part, eliminate the old gobblers, many too sterile to be productive, but egotistical enough to keep the younger toms from the hens.

Another fear that surfaced during the many public hearings was the eventual elimination of fall hunting. For obvious reasons dogs could not be employed during the spring season and their use would be illegal.

For the past few years either-sex hunting has been the rule in the west during the fall season. This too has been controversial, but Commission biologists assure hunters that it is no threat where the populations are strong. Nevertheless, many hunters refuse to shoot hens.

These thoughts were racing through my mind as I awaited the cautious approach of the Bath County turkey.

It was not pure luck that placed me in the path of that turkey. While we had seen only one bird from the flush described earlier, Hugh was certain his dog had spooked a flock.

"Let's spread out and take stands. I'll try to call them together," he suggested. "We can't pinpoint the flush site, but by taking separate stands someone should get a shot."

Tom had left us earlier to do some scouting. I wasn't sure of his location, but thought he was in the general vicinity of the turkey doing the talking.

Kee, kee. That bird couldn't be far away!

AND THEN I saw it! A tiny head and a long thin neck protruding from behind a brushpile. *Either a hen or a small gobbler*, I thought. Juvenile hens, young gobblers, and adult hens all look alike. Only about 19 percent of the birds can be identified as old gobblers. This makes gobblers-only hunting tough in the fall. They do not gobble as much in autumn as they do in the spring. Hunting hens were legal I wasn't sure I wanted to take one. It was turning this over in my mind as I tried to swing into shooting position. That was a fatal move! *Putt*. The bird was suddenly airborne. I didn't fire.

That was as close as I came to a turkey. Other members of the party were more successful. Tom and J. A. both got big gobblers, and Conway got a smaller one minutes after legal shooting time arrived on opening day. He and Hugh were in a blind behind the cabin before dawn, and a small gobbler flew off Walker Mountain in response to Hugh's call. Conway dropped it as it winged over

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make their lucky shots count.

He pointed out that gobbles are impossible to identify in flight, and in areas such as the Piedmont where bearded birds only are legal, dogs are needed to flush them. The hunter can then call them to his blind where he will be able to look for the beard that makes the bird fair game. Bearded hens, though rare, are also legal.

Kit, too, likes the dog's help in reducing cripple losses, usually 25 to 30 percent for most game.

"Where the populations are strong and the habitat vast as it is in the western part of Virginia, hens can be safely harvested," he added.

Fall turkey hunters took 4,203 birds west of the Blue Ridge in 1973, the third highest harvest on record. The addition of the eastern fall kill and the spring season statewide should push the total harvest well above 7,000 birds.

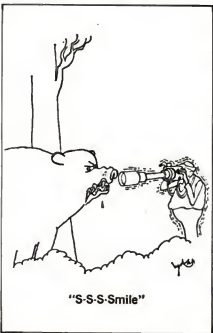
As I wound up my conversation with Kit my only regret was that I had not had this reassuring information prior to my hunt with the Cosner family.

Under good management the Virginia turkey flocks are prospering and Old Dominion hunters enjoy liberal regulations. The spring gobbler season runs for almost a month in April and May. The fall season opens in November and continues through December.

The season limit is a liberal three birds, only two of which may be taken during the fall season. West of the Blue Ridge, turkeys of either sex are legal during the fall season, but bearded birds only are fair game in the East and during the spring season.

In spite of some geographical adjustments, fall turkey hunting, complete with its dogs and rich tradition, is on a sound basis in Virginia.

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## The heart of the matter

(Continued from page 114)

completely different situation. It's difficult to make generalized rules that apply to individuals, but I think those over 35 should be considered for a stress electrocardiogram.

*What about females?*

Many women now come in for annual pelvic examinations and Pap smears. There is a bit of a tendency to limit the exam to just that part of the body. So I think they should also consider the complete examination. Women do not have as many problems with coronary artery disease—at least prior to menopause—as men do. So the stress test for them might be more applicable after they go through menopause.

*What if the doctor we go to doesn't have a treadmill?*

It would be a wasted expense for every physician to have a treadmill in his office. But usually the physician can refer you to either a hospital or one of the specialized clinics that are set up to do this type of testing. I'll be arranging for your treadmill test at the office of Dr. J. B. Silman, a few blocks away.

*What about the old "step test," where you walk up and down a small ladder?*

The step test, or Masters test, was the forerunner of the treadmill test. Many people believe that the treadmill test can be calibrated better than the older step test.

*What if a person "flunks" the stress test?*

One thing not to do is to head for the country. A "positive" stress test may indicate that the heart muscle is getting inadequate blood flow. Other tests may be indicated. The thing that ought to be stressed here is that, all right, you turn out not to be an Olympic champion; this doesn't mean that it's time to give it all up and wrap the shawl around your shoulders and sit on the front porch rocking while you wait for the Grim Reaper. It may require that your sheep hunting be substituted by upland game hunting. It may be that instead of your trek to the mountains you're going to the foothills. It may be that instead of prolonged hiking you set up a base camp or go by horse or some other means. But even for individuals who have problems, I think the worst thing to do is just shut it down. Your physician can tell you which type of activity is compatible with whatever's wrong with you; and I think it's important to ask him. Perhaps there would be a greater risk in going into the out-of-doors, but—and

this is my personal philosophy—there are a lot worse ways to go than to cash in your chips up on some mountainside. That's a decision an individual and his physician need to make.

*Can spirometry or a stress test tell you that, even though you have no disease of the heart or lungs, you need to get out and work to get in better shape?*

These tests can measure your present condition, and lung and heart function can be improved by a proper exercise program. Many laymen look at tests such as these as the ultimate answer. These are tools that are useful in helping the physician decide what type of activity you can take part in. They're not panacea. After the results of these tests come in, your physician will sit down with you and go over any abnormal findings. At this time, it's important to ask him some basic questions:

*What should I weigh?* There's no question that being overweight is associated with a higher risk in several diseases—hypertension, diabetes, heart trouble. Ask your physician what you should weigh; go over your dietary habits with him. Do you skip breakfast and then eat four doughnuts and a Coca-Cola at 10 o'clock in the morning and have three martinis and a heavy lunch, and then in the evening eat a very heavy meal with two or three drinks, and then snack watching TV until bedtime? This is a fairly typical history of people who have a weight problem. Ideally you should try to return to a normal body weight and your doctor can help you do this. It's a mistake to go on yo-yo diets and lose 15 pounds, then forget about it and go back to the old habits that got you overweight in the first place. So much of it is reeducation and changing your dietary pattern.

*What kind of exercise program should I be on?* In recent years jogging has become very popular. Millions of people now are jogging. This is fine for certain individuals, but for others—because of where they live or the fact that they have a weak ankle or an old football knee or just don't have the temperament to go out and jog—there are other forms of exercise that can be even more beneficial. Swimming is an excellent exercise. Bicycling, exercising, running in place can work well. But no exercise program will do any good unless you're able to stay with it and adopt it as part of

your day-to-day life.

Also, what's a good exercise program for a 30-year-old male is probably not a sensible one for a 55-year-old. Another thing: There is no guarantee that an exercise program is going to make you live one day longer than you would have lived otherwise. Regular exercise causes an individual just to feel better; and a number of people have found for executives—people who work primarily with their heads, sitting behind a desk—that exercise helps relieve a lot of the tensions of modern life. And so, if it does no more than that, I think a regular exercise program is worthwhile. It beats booze and tranquilizers.

As far as the heart is concerned, limiting the intake of animal fat and stopping smoking are very worthwhile things. Smoking is a very, very significant thing, not only for the heart but for the lungs.

*How to quit smoking?* People have tried everything including hypnosis to do so. Some people have had success getting off cigarettes by using snuff—a pinch put in the mouth will give them enough nicotine to get off the inhaled type of tobacco. Quitting smoking is one very worthwhile thing you can do if you want to feel better. And there's no question about it—a nonsmoker makes a better hunter, because that aroma of tobacco clings to a smoker's clothing. Nonsmokers can smell it, and most certainly a deer can smell it.

*And a deer can hear the wheezing pretty well too, can't it? Now, when a person goes into a doctor's office to get his physical—if he's not taking an exotic trip—are there any standard inoculations he should be asking about?*

First, an effort should be made to collect a record of your past immunizations. Polio, tetanus, and diphtheria should be kept up to date. Have periodic skin tests for tuberculosis. Depending on where you're going, such things as gamma globulin injections to protect against infectious hepatitis and some of the more exotic tropical diseases may be indicated.

*How often should a person get a tetanus shot?*

Every ten years on routine shots. What we were finding was that we were giving people tetanus shots a little more often than needed and that some people were developing allergies to the vaccine.

*Thank you, Dr. Hulsey.*



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Read of the Thrills of Autumn Trout Fishing, in the October Issue of Field & Stream





## Pronghorn preparation

IN WELL over a decade of hunting and guiding antelope hunters, I have conducted a crusade for the prairie speedster as one of our finest-eating game animals. Countless hunters, local and nonresident alike, evaluate him as a prime favorite for the rifleman and amazingly low as a delicacy for the table.

Much of the dislike for antelope meat comes from misleading and exaggerated information. Many hunters have formed a dislike for the meat without taking the required steps to assure palatable eating. If it is properly cared for, antelope meat is in a class with bighorn sheep and venison as a fine eating animal.

The three key steps in the care of any big-game animal are a clean kill, dressing the game quickly, and proper cooling. Appetizing antelope meat requires all three, plus some extra precautions. A clean kill is important, preferably with a single shot. A buck taken after a long chase, or crippled, then pursued for a lengthy period will, naturally, not yield steaks to rave about. Dressing out the animal and the cooling process are also meaningful steps to a tasty pronghorn. Antelope seasons in the West are usually held in the early fall months when the weather is warm. This makes it important that the animal be dressed and skinned out as quickly as possible to speed cooling.

Animal heat is the first and biggest factor in meat spoilage. Like all grass and browse eaters, antelope bloat rapidly. This necessitates hurried butchering chores. Butchering an "eating" buck is much different from preparing a trophy animal. If a buck's cape is to be preserved the breast should be split only about to a line near the area of the front legs. You then reach into this small opening to free the heart, lungs, etc. Never cut the animal's throat. If your animal is strictly for the freezer and not for mounting, no special care is needed around the cape area. You can split the animal under the jaw to the full length of the carcass.



Bloodshot meat spoils quickly and may ruin the rest, so trim it off. If water is close at hand, wash the body cavity to free all blood clotting along the rib cage and belly walls. Slop the water around, then tip the carcass up to let the water drain thoroughly. Water is often difficult to find in antelope country. It is wise to carry a container for this cooling and cleaning process. A 5-gallon

plastic jug works well. If you are without water, turn the animal over to drain.

Next, skin out the carcass in the field. This is a key step to having tasty antelope meat. Be extremely careful to keep the hair away from the meat. I carry a small canvas tarp and a supply of muslin game bags to protect the meat from dirt. If the buck is a *(Please turn the page)*

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trophy, the tarp can be slipped under the animal as skinning continues. When you reach the head in skinning the muscles of the neck, it can be severed. Remove the legs at the knees and hocks for easier transportation, then put the bare carcass in a game bag. This permits air circulation and cooling.

If the kill is made in early morning it is not wise to remain in the field for long periods on a warm day. Transport the carcass to proper cooling facilities as quickly as possible. Never drape an antelope over the hood of a car or pile the animal in the trunk of a vehicle and expect good meat. If a delay occurs, seek a shaded spot then turn the carcass over every few minutes for cooling. Likewise, a head to be mounted should remain cool. If capping is completed in the field, hair slippage is not likely in a few hours delay.

The aging or hanging of meat is another controversial subject. Personally, I prefer to age my animal a few days and at a constant 34- to 36-

degree temperature. With this procedure and proper care in the field, I have never eaten a bad piece of antelope meat.

If you elect to cut and wrap your game, remember to trim the fat and remove any part that may give the meat a bad flavor. Many sportsmen bone out the animal. Use a wrap that is moistureproof and double-wrap your meat to prevent freezer burn.

No big-game animal should be wasted. If your efforts to produce appetizing antelope meat have failed there are a number of additional methods to helpfully utilize this valued supply of nourishment. It takes a hefty antelope to weigh 125 pounds. Since hamburger and lunch meats are favorites, have the whole animal processed in portions of hamburger. Delicious weiners, salami, and sausage are fashioned by many meat processors with a special recipe and smoking procedure.

Jerky is a special bonus and it can be made easily from your antelope in a few simple steps. Select a lean

portion. Trim off and remove any gristle, then cut into thin strips. Use one cup of salt for five pounds of meat. Light peppering adds to the flavor. When all meat is cut, salted, and peppered thoroughly on both sides, place the meat by layers in a crockery bowl. Cover the bowl with wax paper and place in the refrigerator for twenty-four hours. Drying may be done in a number of ways. Hanging outside in the sunshine is best, but not necessary. The finished product using this method is usually ready in about a week.

If you're in a hurry, drying may be done in the oven at a very low temperature, for about twenty-four hours. The tasty strips, properly stored, will keep indefinitely.

A reprieve should be in order for the pronghorn in regard to table fare. Certainly this little game animal should take his place with the others as a delicacy. Some extra effort and care in handling will achieve this bonus for the sportsman. It is worth the effort.—GABBY BARRUS

## Bass, bass and more bass *(Continued from page 58)*

nique is necessary due to the slower metabolism of fish in the winter, slower reactions, and reduced ability to catch prey.

Fertilization is another technique used by the Fish and Wildlife Administration to increase the size and population of sport fish. By using fish pond fertilizer, they create limited plankton "bloom" which in turn raises the population of zooplankton, and on up the biological food ladder. The end result is that fertilization doubles the productivity of the sport fish, so that where an angler used to catch one bass to an acre, he can now catch two, or when catches before fertilization used to average 2 pounds, they will average 4 pounds.

Even without any publicity, the Eastern Shore ponds and rivers are slowly regaining the enviable reputation that they had a decade ago. As proof positive, take the results in the annual Fishing in Maryland contest run by publisher Burt Dillon, who each year lists those anglers who have registered award-winning largemouth bass (5 pounds or over) in his yearly Fishing in Maryland Award program.

Two years ago, entries showed sixty-four big bass coming from the five water supply reservoirs surrounding Washington and Baltimore. But seventy-eight award-winning bass came from the Eastern Shore ponds and rivers.

"But wait a minute," you might say. "You're comparing five lakes to dozens of ponds and miles of tidal rivers." That's true, but the total area of the five lakes is in excess of 8,600 acres. The four dozen most popular ponds on the shore total only a little over 1,000 acres, and even the miles

of bass rivers would not bring the total to anything like that of the urban reservoirs.

Those figures point up another interesting facet of Eastern Shore pond fishing. As any reservoir bassman knows, much of any large lake is barren of largemouths. Imaginary grid lines laid out over any large, deep lake will reveal that only 10 percent, maybe less, is good bass fishing water. Only the shorelines along these manmade lakes are worth fishing.

Yet the Eastern Shore ponds provide good fishing throughout. This is largely a result of the topography of the area, where the land is flat. In fact, a look at a topographical map of one county, Dorchester, reveals a watery area unmarked by a single contour line, indicating that no part of the county varies 20 feet in elevation (the standard vertical distance between contour lines) from any other part.

Because the ponds are shallow, bass can find good hidey holes anywhere among the water weeds, alongside of stumps and logs, along the shoreline, close to standing trees, and among the islands that are found in some of the ponds.

Shallow-running lures are easy to fish in the ponds, and actually account for bigger stringers of bass than deep diving lures do. It is important that tackle boxes include an assortment of weedless lures along with the usual collection of plastic minnow imitations, surface plugs, plastic worms, spoons, and shallow-running plugs. One of my lures, for example, has toothbrush-like bristles just ahead of the hook to make it weedless.

In many cases, it is necessary to

get a lure into the weeds to produce bass, and the lure has to be weedless to get the lure back out again—without a bass. One of the best ways to fish weed-choked areas like this is to cast the lure to a selected spot, retrieving the line as the lure hits the water to prevent it from sinking deep in the weeds and getting wrapped around a tough stalk. Retrieve the lure just under the surface in open areas, speeding up the retrieve somewhat to slide it across the pads in the dense stuff.

Often a bass will hit at a lure as it shows briefly between the pads, missing it entirely. This does not mean a lost lunger, though. Shallow-water bass near the shore will come back several times to a lure until they finally get it.

A boat is practically mandatory for this type of fishing, not because the shoreline fishing on the small ponds and many rivers would not be good, but because access to the shore is frequently difficult. Shorelines are marshy, checkerboarded with swampy areas. They have few trails or roads leading to the water edge, save for a few launching points along the rivers or pond shores near roads.

Fortunately, the waters are small, protected, and any light craft will do, provided that it is fished safely and not overloaded. I have fished the Eastern Shore out of aluminum johnboats ranging from 12 to 16 feet, in a small trihedral fiberglass craft, and in 14- to 18-foot canoes. A motor is not a must in the small ponds, but is helpful. It is a must on the rivers unless you can row against the current.

While some of the ponds are private, most are open to public fishing and several of the better ones are





owned by the Maryland Fish and Wildlife Administration. Urville Lake is one of these, a 35-acre pond in a rough Y shape, located near Chestertown, Maryland. It is stocked with largemouth bass, bluegills, and crappies.

Wye Mills Lake is another state-owned pond, located between Centerville and Easton, right off Route 50. It also has a ramp, plenty of parking, and its 50 acres are stocked with bass and bluegills.

Uncorn Lake, 45 acres, is shaped something like a large war club, with two small islands in the lower part, near the ramp and dockage where boats can be launched. It is situated near Millington, close to the Delaware border, and also has more than enough parking space for the bass angler.

Smithville Lake, also close to the Delaware border, is just below the town of Smithville and north of Federalburg. It is a long narrow lake of 40 acres, with both a ramp and fishing pier at two separate locations along the road that parallels it. Parking is available at both fishing spots.

There are also a few private lakes that charge a fee, but these can be a bonus to the nonresident angler since a fishing license (a Maryland nonresident angler's license costs \$4.50 for 7 days or \$10.50 for the

season) is not needed. Lake Bonnie is typical of these, a 28-acre lake stocked with bass, pickerel (the local watermen call them pike), and crappies. A \$2 fee is charged per day to fish Lake Bonnie, with both a ramp and boat rental available.

To add the final topping to this angler's dessert, there are rivers, streams, branches, guts, and channels which, on a topographical map, resemble a wino's eyeballs after he's fallen heir to a California vineyard. They literally cover the map.

The Sassafras River, the upper reaches of the Chester River, branches of the Choptank near its headwaters, the Wye River, the Wicomico, Nanticoke, and Pocomoke are all popular with the small groups of bass anglers that frequent the Shore. Most of these, being tide-water rivers, do not require a license to fish—an advantage for the non-resident.

There are only two problems associated with Eastern Shore bass angling. One is in finding out about the many ponds and rivers. This, however, is easy to solve. Burt Dillon's *Fishing in Maryland* guidebook has maps of the Eastern Shore ponds and rivers, together with suggested tips on fishing for bass on the ponds, and lure suggestions. The same publication also covers all other species in the state. It is available on all news-

stands in the area. For more information, write to the Maryland Fish and Wildlife Administration, State Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, also has data and maps of several of the Eastern Shore ponds.

The really serious angler should purchase copies of county topographical maps for the Eastern Shore. Available at \$2 each (plus 8¢ tax for Maryland residents) from the Maryland Geological Survey, c/o Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218. Checks should be made payable to the Maryland Geological Survey. The maps include details and information on all roads, trails, small unnamed ponds, swampy areas, and other information valuable for the serious angler. Eastern Shore counties with the best bass fishing include Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, and Somerset.

The second problem is deciding on where to start, since all that good water would take a lifetime to explore thoroughly. That problem I can't help you with—I haven't solved it myself.

## Cigars, logging trucks & know-it-alls (Continued from page 47)

sporty El Puffo, nearly wiped out three fishermen, a dog, and a 1958 pickup truck. It happened like this:

My friends Herb and Retch and I and Herb's dog, Rupert, had spent the day fishing a high mountain lake and were headed home, the four of us crowded in the cab, by way of a road that traverses the edge of a 1,000-foot-deep gorge named, appropriately, Deadman's. Herb usually smokes a pipe, but since he had run out of tobacco Retch had offered him a plastic-tipped cigar. Chewing nervously on the cigar, Herb pampered the pickup along the road, the outer wheels nudging rocks into thin air. The silence was broken only by the sound of dripping sweat, an occasional inhalation or exhalation, and the dog Rupert popping his knuckles. Then it happened. Forgetting he was smoking a cigar, Herb reached up in the manner of removing a pipe from his mouth and closed his hand over the glowing tip of the El Puffo.

"Ahhhhhaaiiigh!" Herb said, grinding his foot down on the gas pedal.

"Ahhhhhaaiiigh!" the rest of us said. In an instant six hands and two paws were clamped on the steering wheel. Retch claimed later that he jumped out twice but both times the pickup was so far out in space he had to jump back in. In any case there was about as much activity in that pickup cab as I have ever witnessed before in such cramped

quarters. When it was all over and we were safe again, I was driving, Herb and Retch were crouched on the floor, and the dog was smoking the cigar.

Then there was the time down on the Grande Ronde River when Retch was so startled by a 9-pound steelhead hitting his lure that a lit cigar stub popped out of his mouth and dropped inside the open top of his waders. Naturally a man doesn't turn loose of a 9-pound steelhead just because he has a lit cigar roaming around inside his waders. He just makes every effort to keep the cigar in constant motion and, if possible, away from any areas particularly susceptible to fire-and-smoke damage.

Retch knew all this, of course, and managed to land the steelhead in record time. Although his injuries from the cigar were only minor I thought possibly some of the other fishermen nearby might bring charges against him. First, there was his use of vile language, but since it was screeched at such a high pitch as to be understood only by members of the canine family and lip-readers who had served at least one hitch in the Marine Corps, I thought it unlikely that much of a case could be made on that count. On the other hand, there was a good chance he might have been convicted of obscene dancing on a trout stream. And finally there was the felonious act of attempting to induce innocent

bystanders to laugh themselves to death.

Cigars are dangerous enough, but logging trucks are a good deal worse. Some younger readers, particularly those living in the Plains states, may not be familiar with logging trucks, so here is a brief description: The natural habitat of logging trucks is steep, winding, narrow roads situated between high mountain trout streams and the state highway. Where I live, in the Pacific Northwest, they are a protected species. They weigh several tons and are in the habit of hauling sections of large trees around on their backs. No one knows why, unless they eat them. The term "logging trucks" is their scientific name; fishermen, however, commonly refer to them as blankety-blank-of-a-blank, as in "Great gosh-a-mighty, Harry, here comes a blankety-blank-of-a-blank!"

Logging trucks are almost always encountered at the end of a steep, winding stretch of narrow road where the only turnouts are 3 miles behind your vehicle and 10 feet behind the logging truck. To those inexperienced in such matters, the fair and reasonable course of action might seem to be that the logging truck would back up the 10 feet to the turnout and let you pass, but that is not the way it works. The rules are that you must back up the 3 miles, usually at speeds in excess of 30 m.p.h., while your passengers shout such words of encouragement





as, "Watch that wayout!" and "Faster! The blankety-blank-of-a-blank is gaining on us!"

Several years ago I made it to the turnout at the top of a mountain road just as a logging truck, its timing slightly off, was pulling up for its winding descent of the mountain road, no doubt intending to drive before it a car full of hapless, shouting, fist-shaking fishermen. The logging truck pulled abreast of my car, spat a chaw of tobacco out the window and said, "Shucks, that don't happen very often." I could see the logging truck was disappointed at not catching me 10 feet short of the turnout but that was its tough luck.

Most of my friends and I have become excellent logging truck trackers over the years. You track a logging truck about the same way you track a deer. You get out and look for sign. The droppings from a logging truck consist of branches and twigs from its load of logs and occasionally the front bumper from a late model sedan. Any road with such sign scattered along it may be regarded as a game trail for logging trucks.

Occasionally there are other signs to be read. They say, DANGER—LOGGING TRUCKS. These signs are usually put up by other fishermen in the hope of keeping a good piece of fishing water to themselves. This is a despicable trick, since an angler can ignore such signs only at his peril. As with any other dedicated angler, I am not above putting fresh grizzly claw marks 9 feet high on a pine tree alongside a trail to a good mountain lake. But I would never stoop to putting up a logging truck warning sign. That's going a little bit too far.

Know-it-alls are by far the greatest threat to the well-being of the

angler. Your average run-of-the-mill know-it-all can reduce a fisherman to a quivering, babbling wreck with nothing more than a few well-chosen pieces of advice.

Know-it-alls are sometimes difficult to spot since they come in all sizes, shapes, and sexes. They are all equally dangerous. A trembling little old lady know-it-all can be as lethal as a 300-pound madman with an ax in either hand. Their one distinguishing characteristic is a self-confidence as total as it is sublime.

Know-it-alls have probably gotten me in more trouble than all the other dangers put together. I recall one time a know-it-all and I were out fishing and decided to hunt for wild mushrooms. We drove up to a grassy meadow and I suggested that we leave the pickup on high ground and walk across the meadow because it looked wet to me.

"Now, it ain't wet," the know-it-all said. "You can drive across."

So I steered the pickup down into the high grass of the meadow. After a bit the wheels started to slip in mud.

"Hey, it's getting wet," I said. "We better turn back."

"Now, it's just a little damp here. You can make it across."

Then plumes of water started spraying out on both sides of the car.

"You better speed up a bit going through this puddle," the know-it-all said.

I speeded up. Pretty soon we were plowing up a sizable wake.

"Pour on the gas!" shouted the know-it-all. "We're nearly to the other side of the puddle."

By now I was in a cold sweat. The pickup was bouncing, sliding, and twisting through the high grass and waves of water were crashing across the windshield. Suddenly, the grass

parted ahead of us and we shot out into a bright clear expanse of open water.

Later, dripping with mud and wrath, I paid off the tow truck man back at his gas station.

One of the hangers-on at the station finally put down his bottle of pop and asked, "How come y'all got so muddy?"

"Drove his pickup out into the middle of Grass Lake," the tow truck man said.

"Oh," the other man said.

Here are some statements that immediately identify the know-it-all:

"Hell, that ain't no bull, Charley, and anyway you could outrun it, even if your waders are half full of water."

"Quicksand? That ain't quicksand! You think I don't know my quicksand? Now git on in there and wade across."

"Course it feels hot. That's a sign they're beginning to dry. See how the steam is risin' off 'em? Now you just keep holding your feet over the fire like that till your boots are good and dry."

"Ain't no rattlesnakes in these parts."

"Ain't no logging trucks in these parts."

"You ever eat any of these little white berries? Taste just like wild hickory nuts."

"With this ice water you have to do is just walk real fast so it don't have time to break under you. Now git on out there and let's see how fast you can walk. Faster! Faster! Dang it, didn't I tell you to walk fast?"

Because of such advice, the know-it-all is now listed as a threatened species. I myself have threatened a large number of them and, on occasion, have even endangered a few.



## Water-bound bucks *(Continued from page 57)*

to a relatively small area by marking the buck's point of entry into the water with a broken tree limb or with a piece of your handkerchief tied to a stick. When this is not done and you have to travel far to cross the stream, it becomes difficult to tell when you have reached the correct search area on the far shore. The river will look quite different from the other side, and because it does, I know of one buck with "big feet" who spent what must have been a relaxing morning while I expended my energy hiking up and down the banks of Sandy River.

I was close to the buck when he entered the water under the limbs of a yellow birch tree. In my haste to be back on the track I convinced myself that a yellow birch would be easy to spot from the far shore. It was a good half-mile hike to a point where I could cross the river on a combination of rocks and fallen tree trunks.

Once I got on the far side it was easy to see a yellow birch, but

which yellow birch? With maddening regularity their yellow trunks stood out against the snow on the bank I had just left. It took me two hours to find the track and I never got close to that buck again. Knowledge purchased with sweat and boot leather is not soon forgotten, and I have many torn red handkerchiefs to prove it.

When you find your trail disappearing into a large pond or lake, watch the far shore for a while; you may see the deer emerge from the water. Deer entering a lake will usually swim directly across. This often means a long shot and is one of the reasons why I hunt with a .308 and not a brush gun, although much of Maine is brush-country hunting. Your chances of seeing a swimming deer are slim unless the water is extremely calm because more than likely only the buck's nose will be showing above the surface. Even if a head is protruding from the water it is most unwise to shoot at it—your deer might sink before

you can find a boat and retrieve it, assuming you are good enough or lucky enough to hit such a target. More important than that, bouncing bullets off water is a dangerous thing to do; there is no way of really telling where such a stray shot may come to rest.

If no deer emerges within a reasonable period of time, find a new track to follow. Even a boat will not enable you to locate the exit point if it is other than directly across the lake. Don't try to walk around a lake or most ponds; you can find a new track with less time and less wear and tear on your boots. You can best use your time by figuring the distance and hunting up a good natural bench rest for the shot you might get. This is also a good time to spend a few minutes developing a philosophical attitude about deer hunting, because a water-bound buck that takes to really big water has escaped camera, bow, rifle, dog, and man. Who would wish it any different?







# Time-proven worm rig

SINCE the popularization of the plastic worm several years ago, many other forms of artificial baits have appeared in tackle dealers' showcases, packaged in promotional casings that promise purchasers new revolutionary fish-getters. These alphabet plugs, spinnerbaits, grubs, and other lures have at some time or other temporarily taken over the number one spot on the bass hit parade, but despite these challengers, the plastic worm remains an all-time favorite. It too has undergone changes from its plain beginning—flavors, shapes, hooks, colors, sizes, and rigs—yet the original worm with its simple "Texas-style" rigging method can still be the most effective any-time-of-day-or-night bass lure.

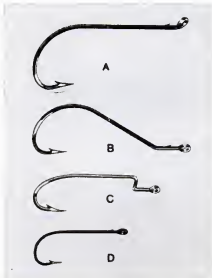
Many fishermen, not yet indoctrinated to bass fishing with plastic worms, or even those who fish the worm but buy the ready-rigged setups or use weedless hooks, are not familiar with this simple-to-use worm-and-hook combination. And the fellow who uses the weedless hooks that utilize a wire guard is overlooking a rig that is far more adept at eluding hangups.

A Texas-style rig is composed of a plastic worm (the softer the better), a hook, and a bullet-shaped slip sinker if you are fishing in deep waters. The size of the worm can vary from 4 or 5 inches to the foot-plus size, and hook sizes range from No. 2 or 1 to 5/0 (a No. 2 being smaller than a No. 1, a No. 1 being smaller than a 1/0, and 1/0 being smaller than a 5/0). Several kinds of hooks have been perfected for worm fishing, such as the Southern Sproat Kinked-Shaft and Modified-Shank hooks that do a superior job of holding the worm on the hook, but with these, a few sets of the hook will tear your plastic bait to shreds. Therefore, you may prefer a Southern Sproat Straight-Shanked hook, the one that looks most like your "common, everyday hook."

Rigging the worm is easy. Tie your line to the eye of the hook. Then push the point of the hook through



1. Run hook through top tip of worm.
2. Exit 1 inch below tip. Pull rest of hook out. 3. Turn hook around, embed it in worm, and pull line to tighten rig



Worm hooks of Southern Sproat variation: A. Up Eye; B. Modified Shank; C. Kinked Shaft; D. Ringed Eye Sliced

the middle of the top tip of the worm. Run the hook through the interior of the worm for about an inch, and then push the point to any side of the worm and out, about 1 inch below the point of entry. Continue to pull the remainder of the threaded hook out of the worm through the hook hole, which you have created in the side. When you have pulled the entire hook out, turn the hook around and embed it back in the worm so that the point of the hook nearly emerges out of the opposite side from which it has re-entered. Then lightly pull on your line to return the eye of the hook into the worm and to tighten the rigging.

Now you have a rig that is weedless, for the point of the hook is buried in the worm, yet because of the fabulously soft quality of most modern plastic worms, when you set the hook—and it usually takes a pretty powerful yank—the point will break through the worm and into the fish.

If you are fishing in deep waters, you'll probably want to use a bullet-shaped slip sinker, a weight that takes only a little of the weedlessness out of the Texas rig. You'll have to slip this weight on your line before you attach your hook, and you must be sure to have the tapered end facing away from the hook. If you have trouble locating these sinkers at a tackle shop, you can make your own by merely pulling the wire out of a dipsey (also called bell or teardrop) sinker.

Experience will teach you to use a fast or slow retrieve and whether to set the hook immediately upon pick-up or after the fish has run with the worm awhile.

You won't hook all the fish that hit. In fact, you'll miss a good deal of them, but the old Texas rig will allow you to get into weedy areas that before you only dreamed of fishing, and into fish that otherwise would have never given away their presence. The Texas-style rig is not a new method; it's time-tested and it works.—GLENN L. SAPIR









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# Exit Laughing

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Ed Zern, 1910-

Samuel A. Ward, 1847-1903



1. O beau-ti-ful for spe-cious guys Who pi-ous-ly de-clare,
2. O beau-ti-ful for strip-mine pit Where once the lau-rel bloomed;
3. O beau-ti-ful for scen-er-y Black'd out by bill-board's span;
4. O beau-ti-ful for ne-on sign By big-dam pow-er lit;
5. O beau-ti-ful for high-ways broad, With beer cans tight-ly hemm'd;



"That's prog-ress' price," as fac-t'ry stacks Spew poi-son in the air.  
For brook-lets run-ning sul-phur-stained And rot-ten egg per-fumed.  
For nau-seous stink of sew-ers we drink Where once pure riv-ers ran.  
For car-ri-on of count-less cars On hill-side char-nel pit.  
For marsh-es drained and dol-lars gained And wa-ter-fowl con-demn'd.



A-mer-i-ca, A-mer-i-ca, Smog smears its grays on thee;  
A-mer-i-ca, A-mer-i-ca, On bu-reau-crats cry shame;  
A-mer-i-ca, A-mer-i-ca, What thieves thy peo-ple be,  
A-mer-i-ca, A-mer-i-ca, Whom ev-'ry gul-ly robs;  
A-mer-i-ca, A-mer-i-ca, God grant us san-i-ty;



We stain thy prime with soot and grime And stron-ti-um nine-ty!  
For can-yons dammed and us flim-flamm'd In Rec-la-ma-tion's name!  
Who rob from earth their chil-dren's birth-right, Na-ture's leg-a-cy!  
Thy land-scape slopped with lit-ter dropped By (let us face it) slob!  
With wealth we're blest, yet foul our nest And then chop down the tree!



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Brand R (Filter)	14	0.9
Brand K (Menthol)	13	0.8
Brand D (Menthol)	13	0.9
Brand M (Filter)	12	0.8
Brand T (Menthol)	12	0.7
Brand V (Filter)	12	0.8
Brand V (Menthol)	11	0.8
Brand T (Filter)	11	0.6
<b>Carlton Filter</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Carlton Menthol</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.3</b>

Carlton 70's (lowest of all brands)—  
2 mg. "tar", 0.2 mg. nicotine

**Carlton  
Filter  
4 mg.**



**Carlton  
Menthol  
4 mg.**

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined  
That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

Filter and Menthol: 4 mg. "tar", 0.3 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report April '75.